

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper
SAFE REPORT

CONCEPTUAL DRAFT FOR COUNCIL REVIEW

1. Executive Summary.....	1
2. Snapper Grouper Management Unit.....	1
3. Fisheries Overview	6
4. Management Overview.....	7
4.1. Management History	7
4.2. Current Objectives.....	8
4.3. Fishing years	8
4.4. Management Specifications	9
4.5. Regulations.....	12
4.6. Management Program Evaluation.....	14
5. Stock Status	17
5.1. Status of the Stocks	17
5.2. Assessments	18
6. Fishery sampling.....	19
7. . Research status:	20
8. Social and Economic information	20
9. Individual Species and Complex Information	21
9.1. Atlantic Spadefish	24
9.2. Black Grouper	25
9.3. Black Sea Bass	26
9.4. Blue Runner.....	31
9.5. Gag Grouper.....	32
9.6. Tilefish	33
9.7. Gray Triggerfish.....	34
9.8. Greater Amberjack	35
9.9. Hogfish.....	36
9.10. Mutton Snapper	37
9.11. Red Grouper	38
9.12. Red Porgy	39
9.13. Red Snapper.....	40
9.14. Scamp	41
9.15. Snowy Grouper.....	42
9.16. Vermilion Snapper.....	43
9.17. Yellowtail Snapper	44

DRAFT

9.18.	Deepwater Grouper and Tilefish Complex.....	45
9.19.	Jacks Complex.....	46
9.20.	Snappers Complex.....	47
9.21.	Hinds and Grunts Complex	48
9.22.	Shallow Water Complex.....	49
9.23.	Porgy Complex	50
9.24.	Survey Trends.....	50
10.	Special Comments	50

DRAFT

List of Tables

Table 1. Snapper-Grouper FMP managed stocks.	3
Table 2. Snapper-Grouper Species Ecosystem Attributes	4
Table 3. Summary of Snapper-Grouper FMP major amendments.	7
Table 4. OFL, ABC, and 2009 Landings Comparison "End of year summary"	9
Table 5. Existing annual catch limits (ACLs) by Sector.	11
Table 6. Annual catch limits and optimum yield (lbs whole weight) to be established in Comprehensive ACL Amendment.....	12
Table 7. Commercial and recreational fishing seasons for some snapper-grouper stocks.	13
Table 8. Recreational landings evaluation, for stocks having ACLs in 2010.....	14
Table 9. Black sea bass recreational ACL evaluation.....	15
Table 10. Evaluation of 2010 and preliminary 2011 Commercial ACLs, for stocks managed on the calendar year.	16
Table 14. List of web links for information on landings and regulations.....	17
Table 15. Stock Status summary.....	17
Table 16. Benchmark and status summary for recently SEDAR assessed snapper grouper species.	18
Table 17. Sampling available through the SEFSC TIP program for all stocks in the snapper- grouper complex, 2003-2011	19
Table 18. Overview of biological attributes for snapper-grouper stocks.....	21
Table 12. Black sea bass commercial quota tracking, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years.....	28
Table 11. Greater Amberjack commercial landings tracking, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years.	35
Table 13. Vermilion snapper commercial quota tracking, by period for 2011.....	43

List of Figures

Figure 1. Jurisdictional boundaries of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	2
Figure 2. Total Snapper-Grouper FMU Landings by Sector, 1986-2009.....	6
Figure 3. Summary of TIP sampling intensity for otoliths, lengths, and trips.....	20
Figure 4. Fishery-independent CPUE for black sea bass, 1990-2010, based on MARMAP trap sampling.....	29
Figure 5. CPUE for black sea bass from the SE headboat survey, 1979-2010.....	30

1. Executive Summary

2. Snapper Grouper Management Unit

Management of the Federal snapper grouper fishery located off the South Atlantic in the 3-200 nautical mile (nm) U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is conducted under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (SAFMC 1983) (**Figure 1**). This area encompasses approximately 190,223 square miles (492,674 km²). The Fishery Management Plan and its amendments are developed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), other applicable Federal laws, and executive orders (E.O.s) and affect the management of 73 species, listed in **Table 1-1**. With the exception of black sea bass, bank sea bass, rock sea bass, and scup management are for species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit (FMU) by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) includes U.S. Atlantic waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida, including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys (Monroe County). Black sea bass, bank sea bass, rock sea bass, and scup are not managed by the FMP or regulated by this part north of 35°15.19' N. lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina.



Figure 1. Jurisdictional boundaries of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

DRAFT

The following species are included in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Snapper-Grouper FMP.

Table 1. Snapper-Grouper FMP managed stocks.

Almaco jack, <i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	Queen snapper, <i>Etelis oculatus</i>
Atlantic spadefish, <i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>	Red grouper, <i>Epinephelus morio</i>
Banded rudderfish, <i>Seriola zonata</i>	Red hind, <i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>
Bar jack, <i>Carangoides ruber</i>	Red porgy, <i>Pagrus pagrus</i>
Black grouper, <i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	Red snapper, <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>
Black sea bass, <i>Centropristis striata</i>	Rock hind, <i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>
Black snapper, <i>Apsilus dentatus</i>	Sailors choice, <i>Haemulon parra</i>
Blackfin snapper, <i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>	Sand tilefish, <i>Malacanthus plumieri</i>
Blue runner, <i>Caranx crysos</i>	Saucereye porgy, <i>Calamus calamus</i>
Blueline tilefish, <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	Scamp, <i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>
Coney, <i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>	Scup, <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>
Cubera snapper, <i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	Silk snapper, <i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>
Dog snapper, <i>Lutjanus jocu</i>	Snowy grouper, <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>
Gag, <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	Speckled hind, <i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>
Golden tilefish, <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	Tomtate, <i>Haemulon aurolineatum</i>
Goliath grouper, <i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	Vermilion snapper, <i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>
Gray (mangrove) snapper, <i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	Warsaw grouper, <i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>
Gray triggerfish, <i>Balistes caprisacus</i>	Whitebone porgy, <i>Calamus leucosteus</i>
Graysby, <i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>	White grunt, <i>Haemulon plumieri</i>
Greater amberjack, <i>Seriola dumerili</i>	Wreckfish, <i>Polyprion americanus</i>
Hogfish, <i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	Yellowedge grouper, <i>Epinephelus flavolimbatus</i>
Jolthead porgy, <i>Calamus bajonado</i>	Yellowfin grouper, <i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>
Knobbed porgy, <i>Calamus nodosus</i>	Yellowmouth grouper, <i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>
Lane snapper, <i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	Yellowtail snapper, <i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>
Lesser amberjack, <i>Seriola fasciata</i>	
Mahogany snapper, <i>Lutjanus mahogoni</i>	
Margate, <i>Haemulon album</i>	
Misty grouper, <i>Epinephelus mystacinus</i>	
Mutton snapper, <i>Lutjanus analis</i>	
Nassau grouper, <i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	

Table 2. Snapper-Grouper Species Ecosystem Attributes

Stock	Stock Genetic Diff in SA	Home Range or Migration	Depth Effect	Area Found	Dominant Area	Adult Habitat	Juvenile Habitat	Peak Spawning	Female Spawning Season	Spawning Depth (m)	Spawning Area	Mean depth caught (m)	Min	Max
Black Sea Bass	NS	Small (larger move more)	NA	Fort Pierce to CH/Atl Coast	32-33 N	LB/AR	Reef, Oyster, SAV	Feb-Apr	Feb-Jul, Sep, Nov	15-56	27-34 N	20-35	2	130
Gag	Ongoing	Large	Male Female Separation Larger offshore	SA	SA	LB/Ledge	Est/Reef	Mar-Apr	Dec-May	24-117	26-33 N	20-50	2	152
Snowy Grouper	NA	Unknown	Larger offshore	SA plus VA	SC/NC	Rock, Ledge, Wreck	Inshore of Adult 50 m	Unknown	Apr-Sep	176-232	24-34 N	100-200	30-50	525
Red Grouper	NS	Small	Larger offshore	Keys to NC	Keys and NC	Live, Rock, Sand, AR	Reef, Lesser extent Est with SAV	Feb-Apr	Dec-Jun	30-90	Keys and NC	30-45	20	95
Black Grouper	NS	Small	Larger offshore	Keys to Cape Lookout	Keys	Live, Rock, Ledges, AR	Reef, SAV, Oyster	Jan-Mar	Possibly Year Round	<100	Keys	30-40	9	60
Speckled Hind	NA	Unknown	Larger offshore	Keys to CH	Unknown	Ledges, Rock	Ledges, Rock	Unknown	May-Oct	Unknown	Unknown	75-100	28	165
Scamp	NA	Seasonal Possible	Larger offshore	Keys to Cape Hatteras	Carolinas	Live, Rock, Ledges, AR	Unknown in SA rarely in Estuaries	Mar-May	Feb-July	33-93	29-32 N (sampling effect)	30-50	17	113
Warsaw Grouper	NA	Unknown	Larger offshore	Keys to CH	Unknown	Live, Rock, Ledges, Pinnacles	Live, Rock, AR, Ledges	Unknown	Aug-Oct			70-110	30	500
Goliath Grouper	NA	Moderate	Juveniles use estuaries adults offshore	Keys to Cape Lookout	Keys	Mangroves, Bridges, Coral, AR	Mangroves and Estuaries	Jul	Jun-Dec			20-50	7	100
Yellowedge Grouper	NA	Unknown	Larger offshore	Keys to Cape Hatteras	N FL to SC	Rock and Ledges	Unknown		Apr-Oct	160-194	31 N (sampling effect)	100-200	64	275
Vermilion Snapper	NA	Small	Larger offshore	Cape Canaveral to CH	N FL to Cape Lookout	LB/Rock/AR	20-30 m depth AR & LB	May-Aug	Apr-Dec	18-97	27-34 N	<76	14	163

CONCEPT DRAFT

CONCEPT DRAFT

Red Snapper	Ongoing	Small	May move inshore to form spawning aggregation	Fort Pierce to CH	Fort Pierce to GA	LB/Rock/AR	Live Bottom Low relief	Jun-Sep	May-Oct	24-67	27-33 N	20-50	10	150
Yellowtail Snapper	NA	Unknown	Unknown	Keys to Cape Lookout	FL	Live, Rock, Reefs, AR	Back reefs and SAV	May-Jul	Feb-Oct		S FL	20-40	10	70
Mutton Snapper	NS	Spawning Aggregation	Larger offshore	Keys to Cape Lookout	Keys S FL	Live, Reef, Sandy Rubble, AR	Est (SAV) and Sand bottom	Jun-Jul	May-Jul/Aug	33	Tortugas	25-35	25	95
Gray Snapper	NA	Spawning Aggregation	Larger offshore	Keys to Cape Lookout	Keys to S FL	Rock, Reef, Hardbottom	Mangroves and Estuaries	Jun-Jul	Jun-Sep		Florida	30-50	5	180
Tilefish	NA	Unknown	Unknown	SA/ Atlantic Coast	FL/GA	Mud	Mud	Apr-Jun	Mar-Nov	190-300	GA/SC (sampling effect)	150-250	80	540
Blueline Tilefish	NA	Unknown	Larger offshore	Keys to NC/VA and northward		Rocks	Rocks	May-Sept	Feb-Oct	48-234	32 N (sampling effect)	150-200	30	256
Hogfish	NA	Small	Unknown	Keys to Cape Lookout	FL	Live, Rock, Ledges	Unknown in SA	Dec-Mar	Possibly Year Round	Variable		Variable	3	75
Red Porgy	NS	Unknown	Larger offshore	Fort Pierce to Cape Hatteras	Carolinas	Live, Rock, Ledges	Unknown in SA	Jan-Feb	Dec-May	26-57	30-33 N (sampling effect)	30-60	9	307
Greater Amberjack	NS	Large	Larger offshore but mixed	Keys to NC/VA	FL	Live, Rock, Reefs, AR, Water Column	Sargassum	Apr-May	Jan-Jun	45-122	Florida	30-50	15	360
Gray Triggerfish	NA	Seasonal Possible	Larger offshore	Cape Canaveral-NC/VA	Central FL to Cape Lookout	Live, Rock, Ledges, AR	Sargassum	Jun-Jul	Apr-Aug	20-75	27-33 N	30-40	20	100
White Grunt	Yes	Unknown	Larger offshore	Palm Beach to FL Keys and SC to Cape Hatteras	S FL and SC/NC	Live, Rock, Ledges, AR	Unknown in SA	May-Jun	Mar-Sep	22-51	32-33 (sampling effect)	30-50	10	75
Wreckfish	NS	Significant North Atlantic	Juveniles Pelagic Adult benthic	SA extending outside	Charleston Bump	Rock and Ledges	Pelagic	Feb-Mar	Dec-May	433-595	31 N	300-400	44	600

3. Fisheries Overview

Species included in the FMU are identified in Table 1. A description of the life history of these species is included in Volume II of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) (SAFMC 2009; http://www.safmc.net/Portals/0/FEP/VolII_SnapperGrouper.pdf), and key characteristics are summarized in Table 2. A description of fishing practices, vessel, and gear is also provided in the FEP (2009) at http://www.safmc.net/Portals/0/FEP/VolIII_SG%20fishery%20description.pdf as are descriptions of fishing communities (<http://www.safmc.net/EcosystemLibrary/FEPVolumeIII/tabid/629/Default.aspx>). Updated information on the number of vessels, permits, and gear types predominantly used in the snapper grouper fishery can be found at [LINK](#).

Landings for all species in the snapper-grouper complex peaked over the recent time period in 1990 at slightly over 25 million pounds (Figure 2). This is followed by a period of steady decline through 1998 to just over 15 million pounds. Since the late 1990s, total landings have typically varied between 15 and around 20 million pounds, although landings in the commercial sector have remained considerably below their peak observed in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Figure 2 shows total landings for all snapper grouper species combined. Landings for individual species and management complexes are provided in Section 0 below.

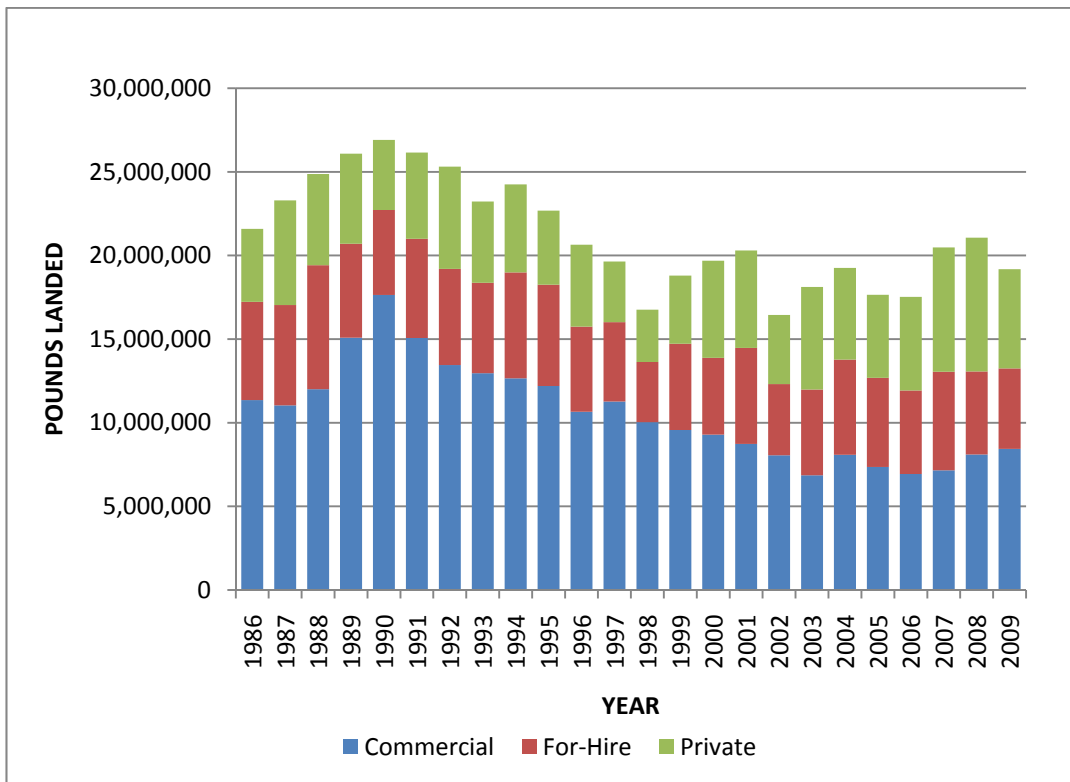


Figure 2. Total Snapper-Grouper FMU Landings by Sector, 1986-2009.

4. Management Overview

4.1. Management History

A history of management for snapper grouper species is available at <http://www.safmc.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ysLepkQHskI%3d&tabid=666>. Table 3 provides a brief overview of key actions and their effective date.

Table 3. Summary of Snapper-Grouper FMP major amendments.

Document	All Actions Effective By:	Major Actions. Note that not all details are provided here. Please refer to Proposed and Final Rules for all impacts of listed documents.
Snapper-Grouper FMP	08/31/83	-Size limits for red snapper, yellowtail snapper, red grouper, Nassau grouper, black sea bass -4" trawl mesh size -Gear limitations – poisons, explosives, fish traps, trawls -Designated modified habitats or artificial reefs as Special Management Zones
RA #1	03/27/87	-Prohibited fishing in SMZs except with hand-held hook-and-line and spearfishing gear. -Prohibited harvest of goliath grouper in SMZs.
A #1	01/12/89	-Prohibited trawl gear to harvest fish south of Cape Hatteras, NC and north of Cape Canaveral, FL.
RA #2	03/30/89	-Established 2 artificial reefs off Ft. Pierce, FL as SMZs.
RA #3	11/02/90	-Established artificial reef at Key Biscayne, FL as SMZ.
A #2	10/30/90	-Prohibited harvest/possession of goliath grouper in or from the EEZ -Defined overfishing for goliath grouper and other species
A #5	04/06/92	-Wreckfish ITQ system and off loading restrictions.
RA #4	07/06/93	-Black Sea Bass commercial definitions.
RA #5	07/31/93	-Established 8 SMZs off S. Carolina.
A #6	07/27/94	-commercial quotas and limits for snowy grouper, golden tilefish. -prohibited sale of Warsaw grouper and speckled hind -100% logbook coverage upon renewal of permit -creation of the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area
A #7	01/23/95	- size limits, hogfish and mutton snapper - Permit requirements, allowable gear specifications, allowable sale criteria, and modified framework procedures. required dealer, charter and headboat federal permits -modified management unit for scup to apply south of Cape Hatteras, NC
RA #6	05/22/95	FL EEZ size and bag limits for cubera, hogfish, and gray triggerfish.
A #8	12/14/98	-Commercial limited entry and permit requirements
RA #7	01/29/99	-Established 10 SMZs at artificial reefs off South Carolina.
A #9	2/24/99	Bag and size limits and seasonal restrictions for red porgy, black sea bass, greater amberjack, vermilion snapper, black grouper, gag grouper. Aggregate recreational limit of 20 snapper grouper per day. Longlines limited to snowy, Warsaw, yellowedge, and misty grouper, and golden, blueline and sand tilefish.
A #9	10/13/00	Resubmitted: Commercial trip limit for greater amberjack
RA #8	11/15/00	-Established 12 SMZs at artificial reefs off Georgia; revised boundaries of 7 existing SMZs off Georgia to meet CG permit specs; restricted fishing in new and revised SMZs
Emergency Interim Rule	09/08/99	-Prohibited harvest or possession of red porgy.
A #10	07/14/00	-Identified EFH and established HAPCs for species in the SG FMU.
A #11	12/02/99	-Established SFA criteria for managed stocks (MSY, OY, MFM, MSST).
A #12	09/22/00	-Red porgy rebuilding plan.

Document	All Actions Effective By:	Major Actions. Note that not all details are provided here. Please refer to Proposed and Final Rules for all impacts of listed documents.
A #13A	04/26/04	-Extended for an indefinite period the regulation prohibiting fishing for and possessing snapper grouper spp. within the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area.
A #13C	10/23/06	-Snowy grouper, golden tilefish, red porgy, black sea bass and vermilion snapper quotas; size, trip and possession limits; and gear restrictions.
A #14	2/12/09	-Establish eight deepwater Type II marine protected areas (MPAs).
A #15A	3/14/08	- Establish rebuilding plans and SFA parameters for snowy grouper, black sea bass, and red porgy.
A #15B	2/15/10	- Prohibit the sale of bag-limit caught snapper grouper species. - Bycatch and ESA provisions. - Allocations for snowy grouper and red porgy.
A #16	7/29/09	- Management criteria for gag and vermilion snapper
A #17A	12/3/10	-Red snapper rebuilding plan and management criteria.
A #17B	January 31, 2011	-Specify ACLs, ACTs, and AMs for 9 species undergoing overfishing. -Modify management measures as needed to limit harvest to the ACL or ACT.
A #19	7/22/10	-Provide presentation of spatial information for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPC) designations under the Snapper Grouper FMP

4.2. Current Objectives

Red porgy, snowy grouper, red snapper, red grouper, and black sea bass are under rebuilding plans.

Other stocks are managed to achieve OY and prevent landings from exceeding OFL.

4.3. Fishing years

The fishing year of all snapper grouper species with the exception of black sea bass and greater amberjack is January-December. The fishing year for black sea bass is June-May, and the fishing year for greater amberjack is May-April

4.4. Management Specifications

4.4.1. OFL, ABC, and comparison to current landings

Table 4. OFL, ABC, and 2009 Landings Comparison "End of year summary"

Important Note: Comparison of landings to OFL and ABC in the following table is for example only, as OFLs and ABCs were not in place for these stocks in 2009. This is provided to give the Council an example of how such information could be presented in the future.

Note: Values in parentheses under the "difference" column indicate stocks for which terminal landings (2009) exceed OFL or ABC.

SPECIES	OFL	ABC	2009 Land	Difference	
				OFL	ABC
Almaco jack		291,922	239,310		52,612
Atlantic spadefish		282,841	482,136		(199,295)
Banded rudderfish		152,999	110,849		42,150
Bar jack		20,520	8,183		12,337
Black grouper					
Black sea bass		847,000	1,136,413		(289,413)
Black snapper		382	0		382
Blackfin snapper		4,154	0		4,154
Blue runner		1,289,941	692		1,289,249
Blueline tilefish		592,602	595,534		(2,932)
Coney		2,589	2,427		162
Cubera snapper		31,772	24,498		7,274
Dog snapper		7,523	7,963		(441)
Gag		885,000	836,184		48,816
Golden tilefish	336,400	311,000	366,768	(30,368)	(55,768)
Gray snapper		894,019	448,815		445,204
Gray triggerfish		672,565	895,069		(222,504)
Graysby		17,856	5,725		12,131
Greater amberjack	2,005,000	1,968,000	2,206,115	(201,115)	(238,115)
Hogfish		147,638	127,244		20,394
Jolthead porgy		42,533	34,323		8,209
Knobbed porgy		61,194	35,762		25,431
Lane snapper		153,466	62,712		90,754
Lesser amberjack		10,568	8,443		2,125
Mahogany snapper		160	581		(421)
Margate		34,662	11,849		22,813
Misty grouper		2,863	2,349		514
Mutton snapper		926,600	460,677		465,923
Queen snapper		9,344	1,898		7,446
Red grouper					
Red hind		25,885	15,783		10,102

CONCEPT DRAFT

CONCEPT DRAFT

Red porgy	395,304	260,314	134,990
Red snapper			
Rock hind	37,569	27,729	9,840
Sailors choice	35,266	17,816	17,450
Sand tilefish	8,823	15,607	(6,784)
Saucereye porgy	4,205	312	3,893
Scamp	492,572	387,215	105,357
Scup	8,999	8,551	448
Silk Snapper	27,519	15,996	11,523
Snowy grouper	102,960	166,397	(63,437)
Speckled hind	0	3,585	(3,585)
Tomtate	70,948	92,601	(21,653)
Vermilion snapper	1,109,000	1,480,354	(371,354)
Warsaw grouper	0	13,342	(13,342)
White grunt	635,899	536,840	99,059
Whitebone porgy	30,684	8,218	22,465
Yellowedge grouper	30,221	28,402	1,819
Yellowfin grouper	9,258	3,284	5,974
Yellowmouth grouper	4,661	95	4,566
Yellowtail snapper	2,173,875	1,329,272	844,603

4.4.2. Annual Catch Limits and Targets by Sector

Table 5. Existing annual catch limits (ACLs) by Sector.

Species	Commercial ACL In Place	Recreational ACL In Place
Black grouper	Aggregate ACL (black, red, gag) = 662,403 lbs gw (781,635 lbs ww)	Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw (765,422 lbs ww)
Black sea bass	309,000 lbs gw comm. (364,620 lbs ww)	409,000 lbs gw (rec.)
Gag	352,940 lbs gw (416,469 lbs ww) <u>IN ADDITION</u> Aggregate ACL (black, red, gag) = 662,403 lbs gw (781,635 lbs ww)	340,060 lbs gw (401,271 lbs ww) <u>IN ADDITION</u> Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw (765,422 lbs ww)
Golden tilefish	282,819 lbs (316,757 lbs ww)	1,578 fish
Red grouper	Aggregate ACL (black, red, gag) = 662,403 lbs gw (781,635 lbs ww)	Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw (765,422 lbs ww)
Snowy grouper	82,900 lbs gw (97,822 lbs ww)	523 fish rec.
Speckled hind	0 (landings only)	0 (landings only)
Warsaw grouper	0 (landings only)	0 (landings only)
Vermilion snapper	315,523 lb gw (350,231 lbs ww) Jan-June 302,523 lbs gw (335,801, lbs ww) July-Dec	307,315 lbs gw (341,120 lbs ww)
Red snapper	0 (landings only)	0 (landings only)
Red porgy	190,050 lbs gw (197,652 lbs ww)	ACL proposed in Comprehensive ACL Amendment
Greater amberjack	1,169,931 lbs gw (1,216,782 lbs ww)	ACL proposed in Comprehensive ACL Amendment

Table 6. Annual catch limits and optimum yield (lbs whole weight) to be established in Comprehensive ACL Amendment

Deepwater Grouper & Tilefish	Comm	Rec	Individual ACLs	Comm	Rec
Yellowedge Grouper	428,037	222,305	Atlantic Spadefish	42,426	240,415
Blueline Tilefish			Blue Runner	193,491	1,096,450
Silk Snapper			Gray Triggerfish*	316,106	356,459
Jacks	Comm	Rec	Wreckfish	237,500	12,500
Almaco Jack	175,498	279,991	Scamp	349,726	142,846
Banded Rudderfish			Goliath Grouper	0	0
Lesser Amberjack			Nassau Grouper	0	0
Snappers	Comm	Rec	Hogfish	54,626	93,012
Gray Snapper	271,341	807,916	Yellowtail Snapper	1,565,190	608,685
			Greater Amberjack**	1,023,360	944,640
Lane Snapper			Mutton snapper**	222,384	704,216
Cubera Snapper			Red porgy***	197,652	197,652
Hinds and Grunts	Comm	Rec	Black grouper	159,637	85,958
Red Hind	263,393	435,960	Wreckfish	237,500	12,500
Rock Hind					
White Grunt*					

*Includes unclassified grunts and triggerfishes because commercial landings of gray triggerfish are not identified to species and only one state identifies white grunt to species level. ** Allocations are for the SA and Gulf of Mexico combined ABC. ***Assessed species, but with no current recreational ACL, commercial ACL shown here represents the allocation percentage in Action 4.

4.5. Regulations

Regulations can be found on the Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net/>.

The Code of Federal Regulations can be found at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=65027985a35c6134f6e25312a5838831&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50tab_02.tpl.

Table 7. Commercial and recreational fishing seasons for some snapper-grouper stocks.

Species or species group	Commercial			Recreational		
	Quota (Fishing Year)	Seasonal closure	Status (Closure date)	Quota or Allowance (1)	Seasonal closure	Status
Vermilion snapper	315,523 (Jan-Jun)	None	Open	307,315	Nov 1-Mar 31	Open
	302,523 (July-Dec)					
Red Snapper	Closed (2)			Closed (2)		
Mutton Snapper	N/A (Jan-Dec)	May 1-Jun 30 (3)	Open	n/a	None	Open
Black Sea Bass	309,000 (June-May)	None	Closed (07/15/11)	409,000	None	Open
Gag	352,940 (Jan-Dec)	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open	340,060	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open
Gag, Red Grouper, Black Grouper combined	662,403 (Jan-Dec)	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open	648,663	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open
Shallow Water Grouper (4)	N/A (Jan-Dec)	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open	n/a	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open
Red Porgy	190,000 (Jan-Dec)	Jan 1-Apr 30	Open	n/a	None	Open
Greater Amberjack	1,169,931 (May-April)	Apr 1-Apr 30	Open	n/a	None	Open
Snowy grouper	82,900 (Jan-Dec)	None	Open	523 fish	None	Open
Golden tilefish	282,819 (Jan-Dec)	None	Closed (03/09/11)	1,578 fish	None	Open
Wreckfish	2,000,000 (April 16-April 15)	Jan 15- Apr 15	Open	Wreckfish permit required for retention.		
Atlantic group king mackerel	3,710,000 (March 1-Feb 28)	None	Open	n/a	None	Open

(1) Amendment 17B Effective January 31, 2011.

(2) Amendment 17A Effective December 3, 2010.

(3) During May and June, possession limited to 10 per person per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

(4) Shallow water grouper includes: Gag; black grouper; red grouper; scamp; red hind; rock hind; coney; graysby; yellowfin grouper; yellowmouth grouper; and tiger grouper.

(5) For information on recreational bag limits, please visit the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at: <http://www.safmc.net/FishIDandRegs/RegulationsbySpecies/tabid/248/Default.aspx>

SOURCE for Table 7: Opening and closings:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SACommandRecSeasonsandClosures.htm>

4.6. Management Program Evaluation

Quota tracking and evaluations are handled by NOAA fisheries through the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Southeast Regional Office. The information that follows was obtained from the SERO website, and represents the most up-to-date information on quotas. Information through June 2011 is reflected in this report.

Table 8. Recreational landings evaluation, for stocks having ACLs in 2010.

Species	2010 Preliminary Recreational Landings-by Two-month Wave*							2010 Annual Catch Limit/Quota	Percent	Closure Date
	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Total Reported			
Black, Gag, and Red Grouper	13,307	3,477	152,086	56,619	36,588	15,431	277,508	648,663	42.80%	n/a
Gag	5,596	1,929	84,675	46,225	31,657	2,181	172,263	340,060	50.70%	
Golden Tilefish	0	496	402	77	1,122	2,295	4,392	1,578	278.30%	
Red Snapper	705	332	619	193	677	9	2,535	0	n/a	
Snowy Grouper	0	752	541	94	751	0	2,138	523	408.80%	
Speckled Hind	1	3	14	25	2	0	45	0	NA	
Vermilion Snapper	5,254	20,727	92,207	75,867	63,714	438	258,207	307,315	84.00%	
Warsaw Grouper	36	81	866	10,109	154	97	11,343	0	NA	

SERO website, June 10, 2011

Table 9. Black sea bass recreational ACL evaluation.

Species	2010/2011 Preliminary Recreational Landings by Two-month Wave*								2010/2011 Annual Catch Limit	Percent	Closure Date
	Jun 1- 30	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan- Feb**	Mar- Apr**	May 1-31	Total Reported			
Black Sea Bass	99,360	121,046	146,243	54,484				421,133	409,000	103%	2/12/2011

SERO website, June 10, 2011

Table 10. Evaluation of 2010 and preliminary 2011 Commercial ACLs, for stocks managed on the calendar year.

Month	Pounds Guttled Weight*								
	2011					2010			
	Snowy Grouper	Golden Tilefish	Red Porgy	Gag	Gag, Black Grouper, and Red Grouper	Snowy Grouper	Golden Tilefish	Red Porgy	Gag
January	3,222	172,043	38	0	805	3,587	81,822	6	1,599
February	683	153,876	58	43	213	2,603	145,024	0	0
March	581	27,565	98	0	245	8,429	93,578	0	0
April	833	0	0	0	331	11,423	7,561/ Closed	79	115
May	5,091	0	30,303	66,972	129,547	9,091	9	19,895	49,717
June	4,764	0	17,923	40,514	74,562	6,240	0	14,683	49,685
July	2,642	0	20,336	17,378	36,375	3,021	0	19,611	29,188
August					72	3,498	34	14,704	23,149
September						3,765	0	14,362	20,646
October						3,372	0	9,933	23,378
November						1,960	0	11,852	18,170
December						1,918	35	3,626	19,622
Total	17,816	353,484	68,757	124,907	242,150	58,911	328,063	108,754	235,272
Expanded Total***	21,237	375,464	74,016	136,820	271,726	60,855	333,312	117,128	254,329
Quota	82,900	282,819	190,050	352,940	662,403	82,900	295,000	190,050	352,940
Percent	25.62%	132.76%	38.95%	38.77%	41.02%	73.41%	112.99%	61.63%	72.06%

NOTE: Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper during period 1 closed 3/10/2011.

Table 11. List of web links for information on landings and regulations

Information	Web Link for updates
Commercial Landings	http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/quotas/southatlantic/saq.htm
Recreational Landings	http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/RecreationalLandingsandCatchLimits.html
Seasons	http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SACommandRecSeasonsandClosures.htm
Specific Regulations	http://www.safmc.net/FishIDandRegs/RegulationsbySpecies/tabid/248/Default.aspx

5. Stock Status

5.1. Status of the Stocks

The overfishing and overfished status of South Atlantic snapper grouper species is contained in the Report on the Status of U.S. Fisheries

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/sos_full28_press.pdf.

Five species are considered overfished (red porgy, snowy grouper, red snapper, red grouper, and black sea bass), and 9 species are undergoing overfishing (vermilion snapper, black sea bass, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, red grouper, red snapper, gag, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper).

Table 12. Stock Status summary

STOCK	OVERFISHING	OVERFISHED	ACTION REQUIRED	REBUILDING STATUS
Black grouper -	No	No	N/A	N/A
Black sea bass - t	Yes	Yes	Reduce Mortality, Continue Rebuilding	Year 5 of 10-year plan
Gag -	Yes	No	Reduce Mortality	N/A
Gray triggerfish -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Greater amberjack -	No	No	N/A	N/A
Hogfish -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Red grouper -	Yes	Yes	Reduce Mortality, Develop Rebuilding Plan	Develop rebuilding plan11
Red porgy -	No	Yes	Continue Rebuilding	Year 11 of 18-year plan12
Red snapper -	Yes	Yes	Reduce Mortality, Continue Rebuilding	Year 1 of 35-year plan
Scamp -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Snowy grouper -	Yes	Yes	Reduce Mortality, Continue Rebuilding	Year 5 of 34-year plan
Speckled hind -	Yes	Unknown	Reduce Mortality	N/A
Tilefish -	Yes	No	Reduce Mortality	N/A
Vermilion snapper -	Yes	No	Reduce Mortality	N/A

Warsaw grouper -	Yes	Unknown	Reduce Mortality	N/A
White grunt -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Wreckfish -	No	Unknown ¹³	N/A	N/A
Almaco jack -	Unknown ¹³	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Atlantic spadefish -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Banded rudderfish -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Blue runner -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Blueline tilefish -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Cubera snapper -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Gray snapper -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Lane snapper -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Lesser amberjack -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Nassau grouper -	No ³	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Puddingwife -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Red hind -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Rock hind -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Silk snapper -	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A
Yellowedge grouper -	No	Unknown	N/A	N/A

5.2. Assessments

Completed and scheduled Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) stock assessments for snapper grouper species are located at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>.

Information from the most recent SEDAR assessments is provided in Table 13.

Table 13. Benchmark and status summary for recently SEDAR assessed snapper grouper species.

MSST is in pounds whole weight with exception of vermilion snapper, which is in eggs.

Species	F/F _{MSY}	B/MSST	MSST	MFMT	Last year	SEDAR
Black sea bass	6.15	0.39	10,511,633	0.43	2003	2005 update
Vermilion snapper	2.05	Unknown	3.95X10 ¹¹	0.355	2005	2007 update
Red porgy	0.39	0.85	5,529,012	0.20	2004	2006 update
Greater amberjack	0.531	1.461	3,207,726	0.424	2006	SEDAR 15
Red snapper	4.12	0.09	317,465	0.178	2009	SEDAR 24
Golden tilefish	1.53	1.25	1,454,063	0.043	2002	SEDAR 4
Snowy grouper	3.00	0.25	3,498,735	0.05	2002	SEDAR 4
Yellowtail snapper*	0.78	1.40	7,853,000	0.33	2001	SEDAR 3
Mutton snapper	0.51	1.28	12,352,501	0.34	2006	SEDAR 15
Red grouper	1.35	0.92	4,914,053	0.221	2007	SEDAR 19
Black grouper	0.50	1.62	5,120,000	0.216	2008	SEDAR 19
Gag	1.31	1.096	8,04,288	0.237	2004	SEDAR 10

*Average of ICA and Fleet-specific models.

6. Fishery sampling

Table 14. Sampling available through the SEFSC TIP program for all stocks in the snapper-grouper complex, 2003-2011

NOTE: 2011 values are preliminary, reflecting samples through July 2011.

YEAR	Lengths	Otoliths	Trips
1983	1946	0	201
1984	37355	0	1760
1985	50683	0	2304
1986	38266	0	1594
1987	35989	0	2038
1988	28424	0	1825
1989	27129	0	1730
1990	34712	0	1991
1991	56600	123	2582
1992	59134	942	2689
1993	86152	1295	3577
1994	52738	1074	2628
1995	73407	2890	3619
1996	41703	1734	2770
1997	44297	3193	2922
1998	47873	3019	3325
1999	67571	3718	4182
2000	66705	2613	4747
2001	65153	3485	4592
2002	53464	5336	5057
2003	54499	4546	5451
2004	51847	7090	4571
2005	38610	4732	4184
2006	40046	11216	4097
2007	34954	13556	4853
2008	30593	10472	4315
2009	31651	10502	3998
2010	26011	11005	3266
2011	12405	6204	1110

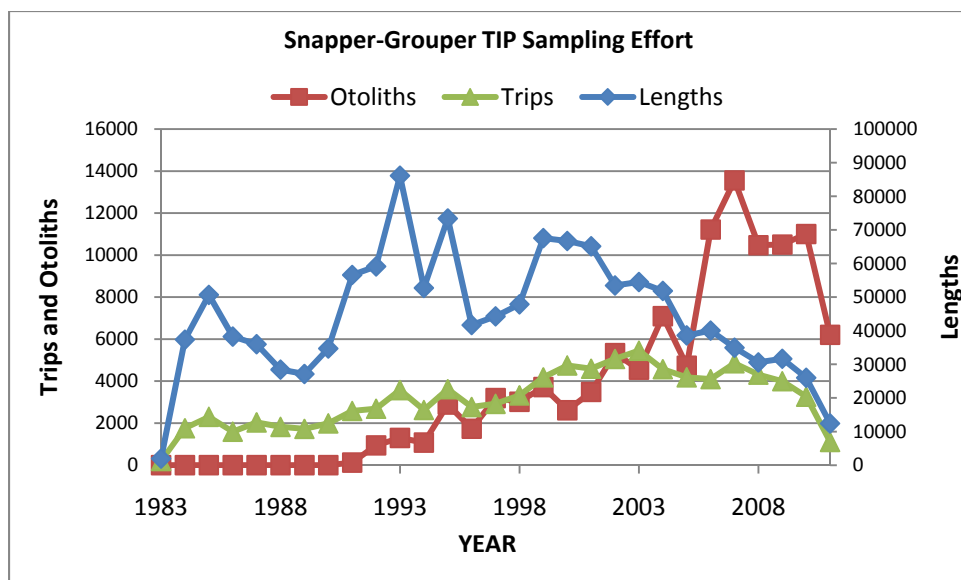


Figure 3. Summary of TIP sampling intensity for otoliths, lengths, and trips.

7. . Research status:

List past and any ongoing research projects - MARMAP, MARFIN, SEAMAP, CRP, State and University. Past projects in bibliography format, current projects could consider greater detail.

8. Social and Economic information

- i. *Economic trends* in the fishery: price per lb, etc
- ii. *Social trends*: participants, infrastructure

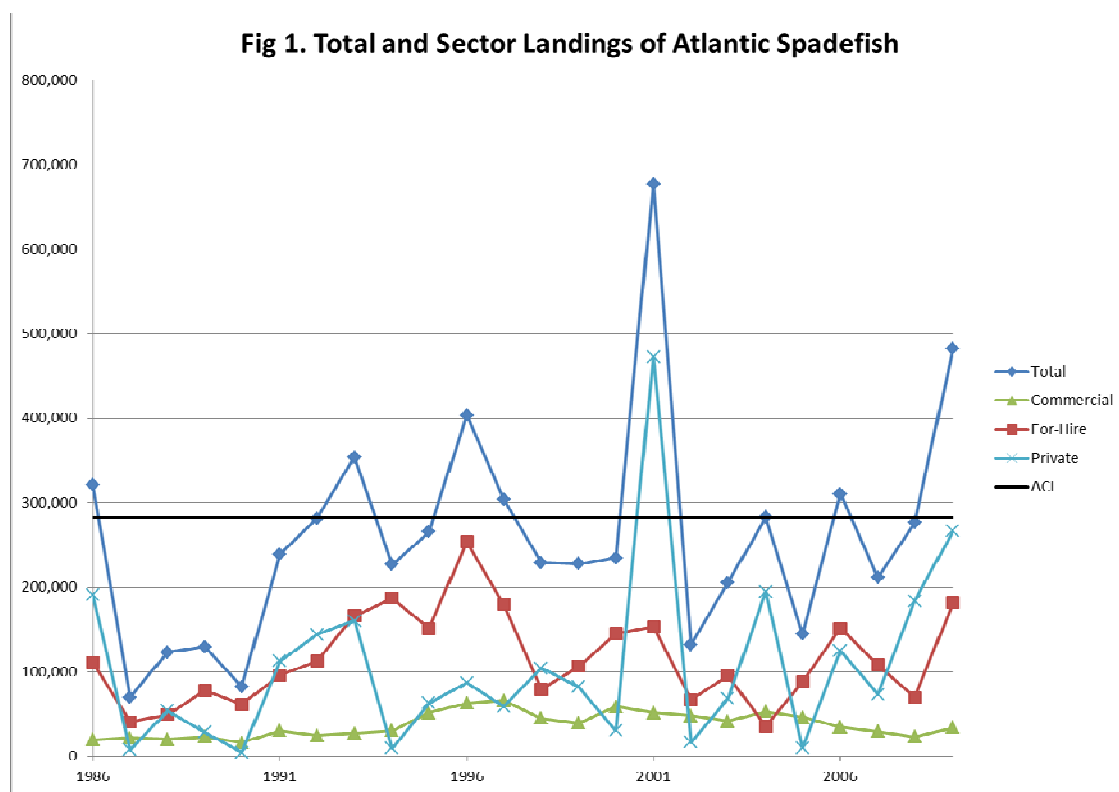
9. Individual Species and Complex Information

Table 15. Overview of biological attributes for snapper-grouper stocks.

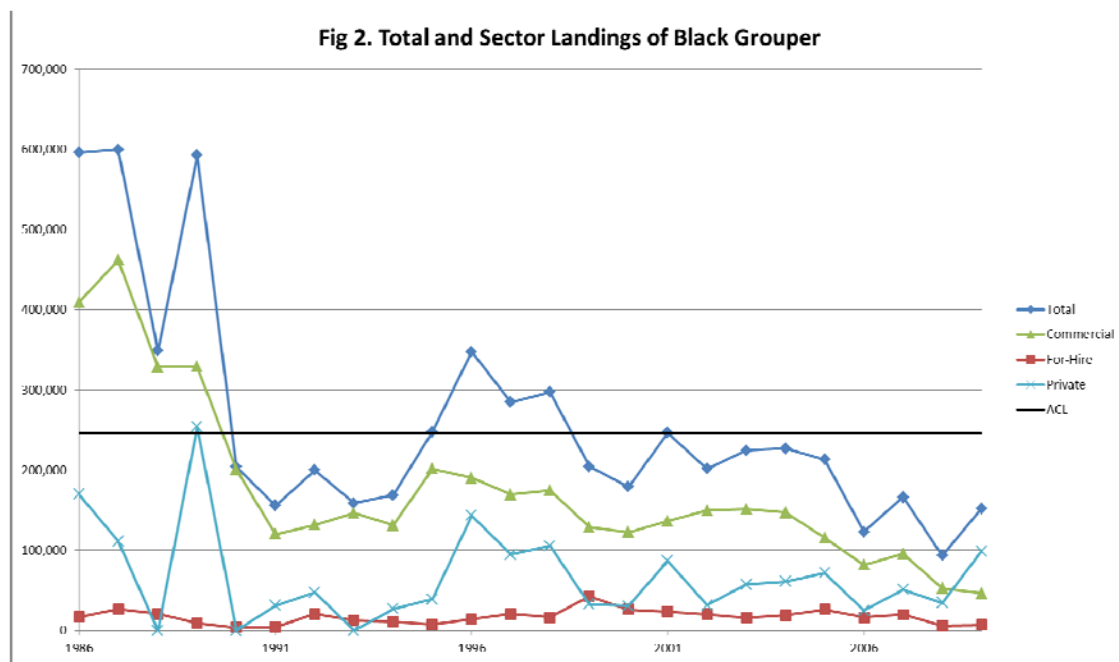
Stock	Max Age	Max Length	Max Weight	Age Maturity	Protogyny	Size Mature	M	Peak Spawning
Atlantic Spadefish	8 years	100 cm (39 in)		M: 0-1 years F: 1 year	Gonochoristic			May
Black Sea Bass	10 years	66 cm (26.1 in)	3.6 kg (7.9 lbs)	0-3 years	5 years	10-18 cm (3.6-7.1 in)	0.30	March - May
Blue Runner	11 years	70 cm (27.7 in)	5.1 kg (11.3 lbs)					March - May
Bar Jack		69 cm (27.3 in)	8.2 kg (18.2 lbs)			24 cm (9.5 in)		April and October
Gag	26 years	145 cm (57.5 in)	36.5 kg (81 lbs)	1 st : 2 years 50%: 3 years	105 cm (41.6 in)	62.2 cm (24.7 in)	0.15	March - April
Snowy Grouper	40 years	122 cm (48 in)	30 kg (66 lbs)	5 years	72.7 cm (28.8 in)	54.1 cm (21.3 in)		April - September
Red Grouper	25 years	125 cm (49.2 in)	23 kg (51.1 lbs)	2.1-2.4 years	50.9 cm (20.1 in)	48.7-59.2 cm (19.3-21 in)	0.20	April
Black Grouper	33 years	151.8 cm (60.1 in)		5.2 years	121.4 cm (48.1 in)	82.6 cm (32.7 in)	0.15	January - March
Speckled Hind	25 years	110 cm (43.3 in)	30 kg (66.1 lbs)	4-5 years	8-12 years	45-60 cm (17.7-23.6 in)		April - September
Scamp	30 years	107 cm (42.4 in)	14.2 kg (31.3 lbs)	1.28 years	70 cm (27.8 in)	35.5 cm (13.9 in)	0.15	March – mid-May
Warsaw Grouper	41 years	230 cm (91 in)	263 kg (580 lbs)				0.05 – 0.12	August - October
Goliath Grouper	37 years	250 cm (99 in)	455 kg (1,003 lbs)	M: 4 years F: 6 years	Males may transform from immature females	M: 110 cm (43.6 in) F: 120 cm (47 in)	0.13 (0.04 – 0.19)	July - September
Nassau Grouper	29 years	122 cm (48.3 in)	23-27 kg (50.5-59.5 lbs)	4-8 years	Gonochoristic	40-50 cm (15.8-19.8 in)	0.18	May - August
Vermilion Snapper	14 years	60 cm (23.8 in)	3.2 kg (7.1 lbs)	2 years	NA	20 cm (7.9 in)	0.25 (0.2-0.3)	June - August
Red Snapper	45 years	100 cm (39.7 in)	22.8 kg (50 lbs)		NA	M: 22.3 cm (8.8 in) F: 37.8 cm (15 in)	0.25	July - September
Yellowtail Snapper	17 years	86.3 cm (34.2 in)	4.1 kg (9.1 lbs)		NA	M: 22.4 cm (8.9 in) F: 24.8 cm (9.8 in)	0.20 (0.15-0.25)	April - July
Mutton Snapper	29 years	94 cm (37.2 in)	15.6 kg (34.6 lbs)		NA	M: 33 cm (13.1 in) F: 41.4 cm (16.4 in)	0.21	April - May

Golden Tilefish	50 years	125 cm (50 in)	30 kg (66 lbs)				0.07	April - September
Hogfish	23 years	91 cm (36 in)	10 kg (22.2 lbs)		Yes		0.13	February - March
Red Porgy	18 years	91 cm (36 in)	7.7 kg (17.1 lbs)	1.5 years	35.1-40 cm (13.9-15.9 in)	28.9 cm (11.5 in)		January - April
Greater Amberjack	17 years	190 cm (75 in)	80.6 kg (177.7 lbs)	F: 1.3 years	NA	M: 64.4 cm (25.4 in) F: 73.3 cm (28.9 in)	0.25	April - May
Gray Triggerfish	13 years	60 cm (23.8 in)	6.2 kg (13.8 lbs)	0-1 years	NA	M: 18 cm (7.1 in) F: 15.8 cm (6.3 in)	0.30	June - July
Wreckfish	76 years	200 cm (79 in)	100 kg (221 lbs)		NA	75.1-80 cm (29.6-31.5 in)		February - March
Gray Snapper	24 years	89 cm (35.2 in)	20 kg (44.4 lbs)	F: 2 years	NA	M: 22 cm (8.7 in) F: 23 cm (9.1 in)	0.30	July - August
Lane Snapper	19 years	60 cm (23.8 in)	3.5 kg (7.8 lbs)	1 year		M: 14.7 cm (5.8 in) F: 18.5 cm (7.3 in)	0.11-0.24	April - July
Cubera Snapper		160 cm (63.4 in)	56 kg (126.5 lbs)					July - August
Dog Snapper	29 years	128 cm (50.7 in)	28.6 kg (63.4 lbs)			M: 48 cm (19 in) F: 43 cm (17 in)	0.33	February - March
Mahogany Snapper		48 cm (19 in)	1.3 kg (2.9 lbs)				0.30	August
Yellowedge Grouper	85 years	114 cm (45.3 in)	18.6 kg (41 lbs)		81 cm (32.2 in)	56.9 cm (22.4 in)	0.05	April - October
Blueline Tilefish	42 years	90 cm (35.7 in)	7 kg (15 lbs)				0.04-0.17	May
Sand Tilefish		70 cm (27.7 in)	1.1 kg (2.4 lbs)					
Silk Snapper		83 cm (32.9 in)	8.3 kg (18.3 lbs)	6.3 years	NA	43.4 cm (17.2 in)		June - August
Misty Grouper		160 cm (63 in)	107 kg (236 lbs)			81.1 cm (31.9 in)	0.14	
Queen Snapper		100 cm (39 in)	5300 g (11.7 lbs)	1 year		53.6 cm (21 in)	0.76	April - May
Blackfin Snapper		75 cm (29.8 in)	14 kg (30.9 lbs)		Gonochoristic	M: 25-27 cm (9.9-10.7 in) F: 23-25 cm (9.1-9.9 in)		
Black Snapper		65 cm (25.7 in)	3.2 kg (7.1 lbs)	1 year	NA	34.9 cm (13.8 in)		February - April
Jolthead Porgy		76 cm (30.1 in)	10.6 cm (23.4 in)					
Knobbed Porgy	21 years	54.4 cm (21.4 in)	2.63 kg (5.8 lbs)	6 years	26.5-37.7 cm (10.5-15 in)	29.8 cm (11.8 in)		April - May
Saucereye Porgy		56 cm (22.2 in)	0.68 kg (1.5 lbs)					
Scup		46 cm (18.2 in)	2.1 kg (4.6 lbs)			15.5 cm (6.1 in)		June
Whitebone Porgy	12 years	41 cm (16.2 in)			Yes			May
Rock Hind	12 years	61 cm (24.2 in)	4.1 kg (9.1 lbs)	6.1 years		28.0 cm (11.1 in)	0.25	May - August
Red Hind	22 years	76 cm (30 in)	25 kg (55.5 lbs)		27.5-34.5 cm (10.9-13.7 in)	28.5 cm (11.3 in)	0.18	June - August

Yellowfin Grouper	15 years	100 cm (39.6 lbs)	18.5 kg (41.1 lbs)				0.18	March - August
Yellowmouth Grouper	41 years	84 cm (33.2 in)	10.2 kg (22.6 lbs)	2-4 years	50.3-64.3 cm (19.8-25.3 in)	40-45 cm (15.8-17.7 in)		March - May
Coney	11 years	41 cm (16.2 in)			20 cm (7.9 in)	13 cm (5.1 in)	0.18	January - February
Graysby	13 years	42.6 cm (16.9 in)	1.1 kg (2.4 lbs)	3.5 years	20-23 cm (7.9-9.1 in)	14 cm (5.5 in)	0.20	June - August
White Grunt	27 years	53 cm (21 in)	4.4 kg (9.8 lbs)	M: 2 years F: 1 year	NA	M: 17.3-27.7 cm (6.9-11 in) F: 16.9-24.1 cm (6.7-9.5 in)	0.25	May - June
Sailor's Choice		41.2 cm (16.3 in)						
Tomtate	17 years	26.1 cm (10.3 in)		2 years		15-15.9 cm (5.9-6.3 in)	0.33	April - June
Margate		79 cm (31.3 in)	7.1 kg (2.1 lbs)			24 cm (9.5 in)	0.37	February - April

9.1. Atlantic Spadefish

9.2. Black Grouper



9.3. Black Sea Bass

Management Goal: Rebuilding plan in effect, target 2016

Current Status: Recent assessments indicated that black sea bass were overfished and overfishing was occurring. The Council implemented a restrictive rebuilding plan in Snapper-Grouper FMP Amendment 15A, based on a fixed harvest strategy with commercial and recreational allocations. Black sea bass are scheduled to be rebuilt in 2016. ACLs and AMs were specified in Amendment 17B.

Upcoming Actions: The Council is considering modifying the rebuilding plan in response to stock improvements and shortened seasons that are anticipated under the current fixed harvest rate strategy.

Species Overview:

The black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) is a temperate marine species that inhabits irregular hard-bottom areas, such as wrecks or reefs. They are found from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral, and those found in the South Atlantic Bight usually occur more inshore with other tropical reef fish such as snappers, groupers, porgies and grunts. Black sea bass are protogynous hermaphrodites, that is, they change sex with size. Large individuals are males, and smaller individuals are female. The number of eggs produced in a spawning season ranges from 30 thousand to 500 thousand depending on the size of the fish. The spawning season is June through October in the Mid-Atlantic Bight, and February through May in the South Atlantic Bight. Females reach sexual maturity when they are 7.5 inches long, and males when they are 9 inches long. Black sea bass may live up to 20 years, although fish older than 9 years are rare. The maximum size attained is 24 inches and 6 pounds. Black sea bass are opportunistic feeders eating whatever is available, preferring crabs, shrimp, worms, small fish and clams.

Assessment Overview

A benchmark assessment of south Atlantic black sea bass was conducted in 2003, through SEDAR 2, and updated in 2005. A second benchmark assessment is underway, and is expected to be provided to the Council in December 2011.

Management Program

Black sea bass management criteria and current values

Parameter	Definition	Value
MFMT	Fmsy	0.43
MSST	1-M(Bmsy)	10.5 mpds
ABC	Based on rebuilding plan	847,000
OFL	Undetermined	
ACL	= ABC	847,000 WW / 718,000 GW
Commercial ACL		309,000
Recreational ACL		409,000

Accountability Measures

Commercial: The commercial fishery will be closed when projections indicate the commercial ACL will be met.

Recreational: If sea bass are overfished, the recreational fishery will be closed when projections indicate the recreational ACL will be met. If the ACL is exceeded in a year, the ACL will be reduced the following year by the amount of the overage.

Table 16. Black sea bass commercial quota tracking, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years.

Month	Pounds Guttred Weight	
	Black Sea Bass*	
	2011-2012	2010-2011
June	230,316	78,436
July	63,875	50,606
August		58,472
September		42,947
October		10,887
November		115
December		66,917
January		24
February		14
March		128
April		0
May		0
Total	294,190	308,547
Expanded Total***	333,755	323,353
Quota	309,000	309,000
Percent	108.01%	104.64%

*The fishing year for Black Sea Bass is June 1 - May 31.

Commercial harvest of black sea bass closed on July 15, 2011.

Current Outlook:

Both commercial and recreational sectors have reached and exceeded their allocations in recent years. Increased landings coupled with increased average size and increases in CPUE measures in 2010 suggest stock improvement through rebuilding plan impacts or strong recruitment.

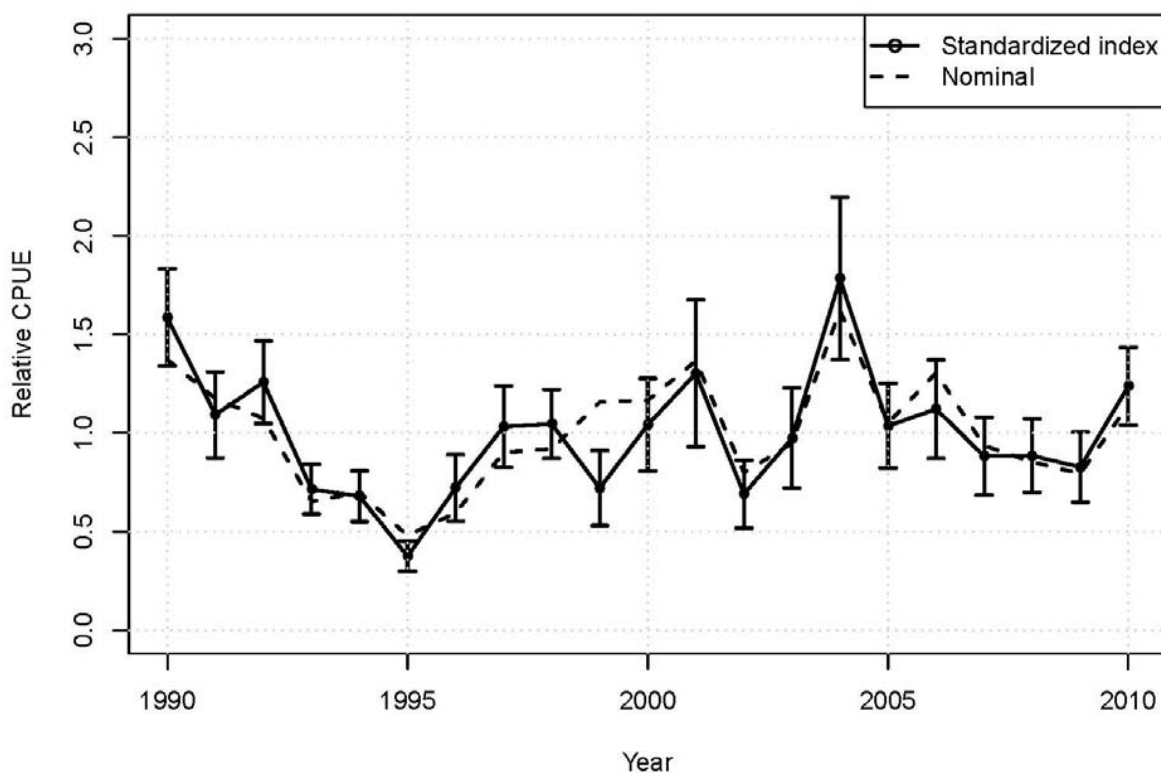
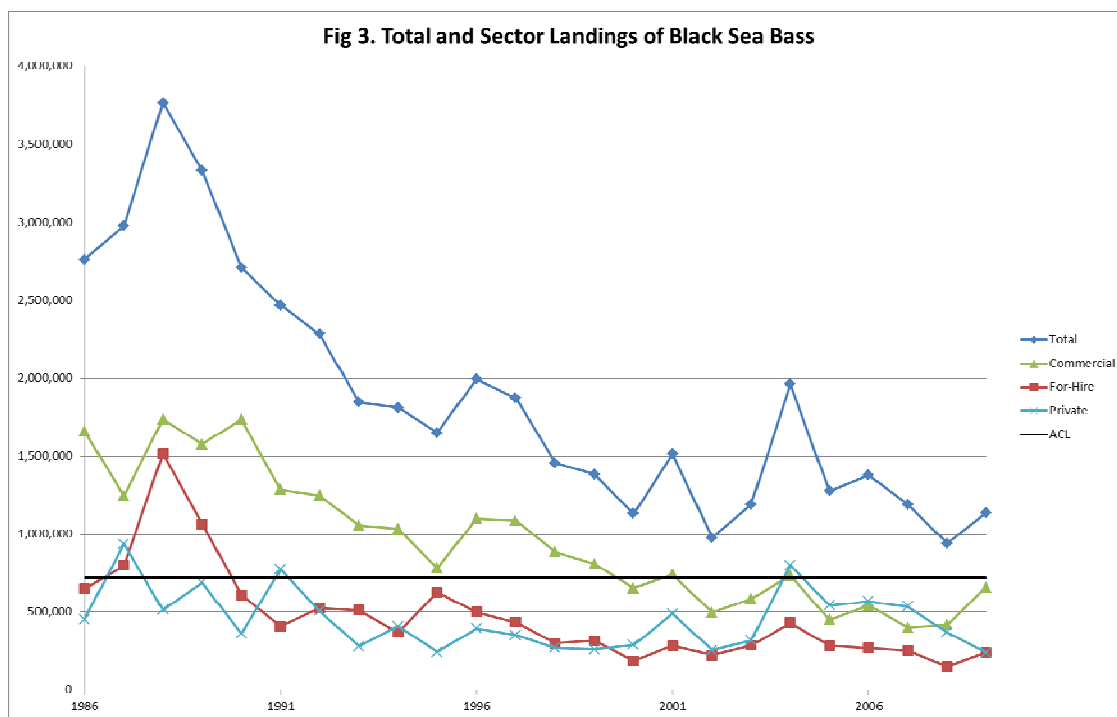


Figure 4. Fishery-independent CPUE for black sea bass, 1990-2010, based on MARMAP trap sampling.

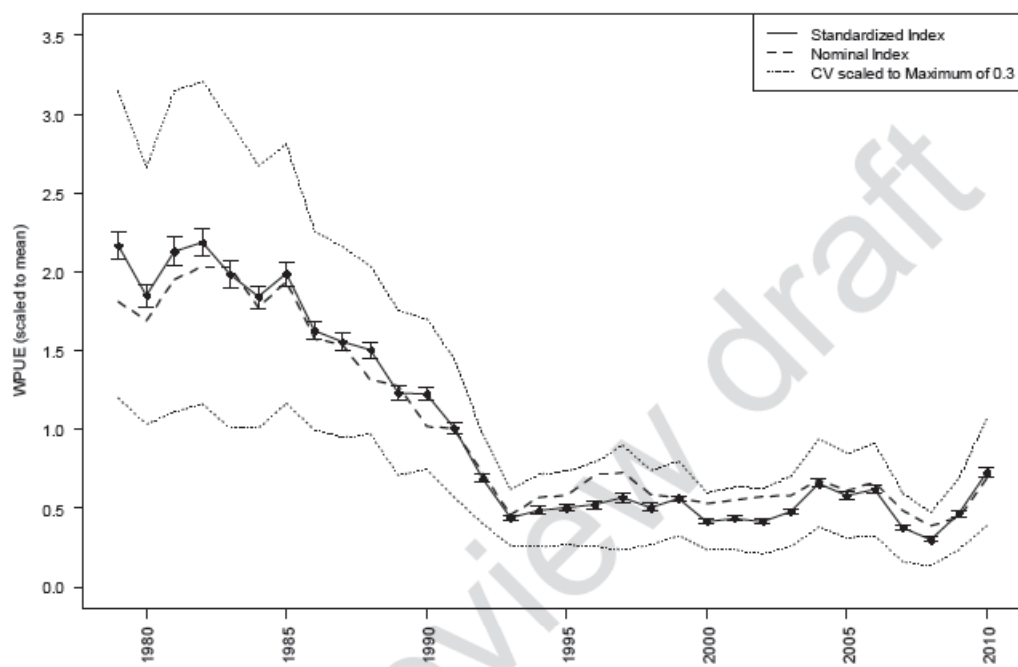
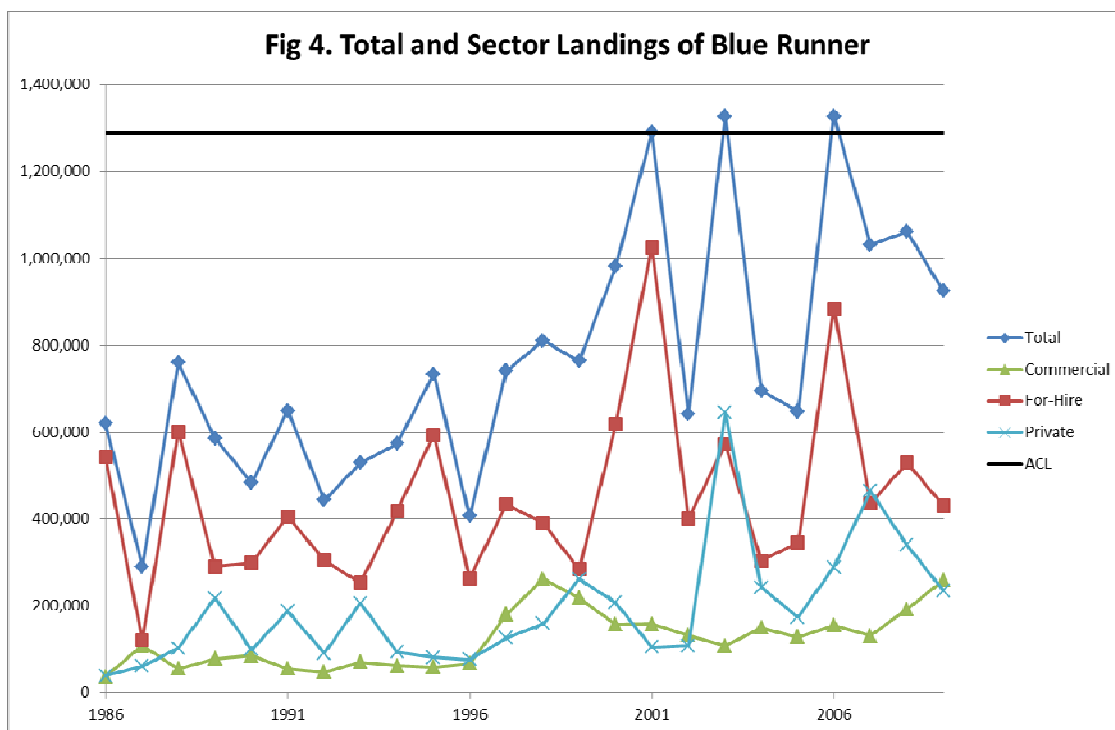
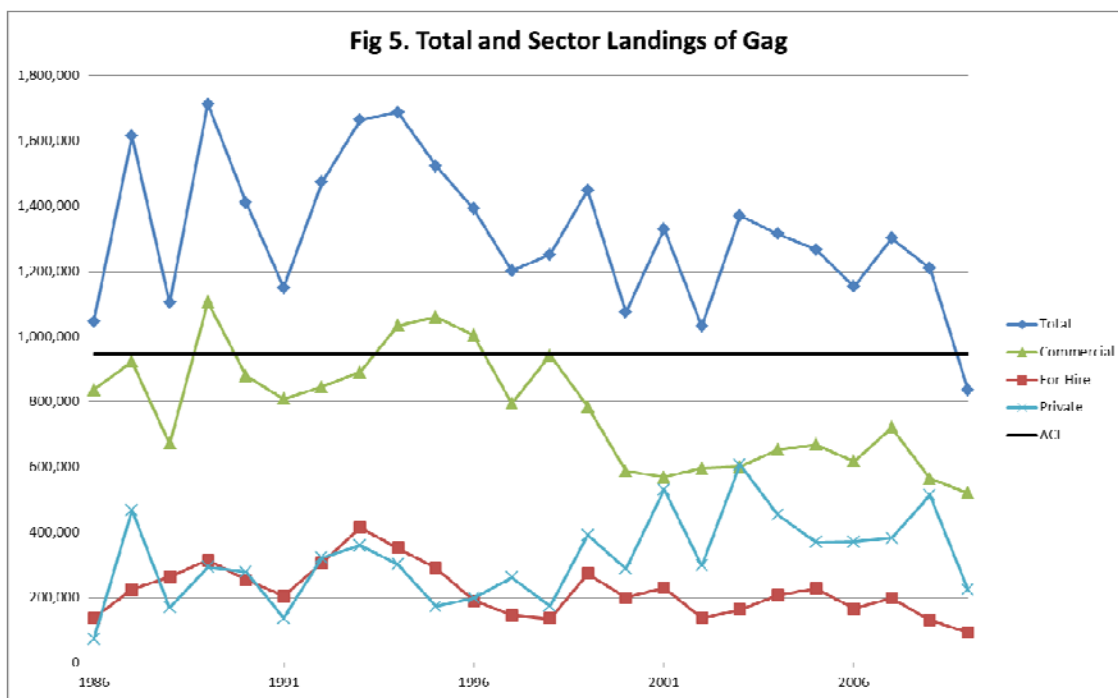
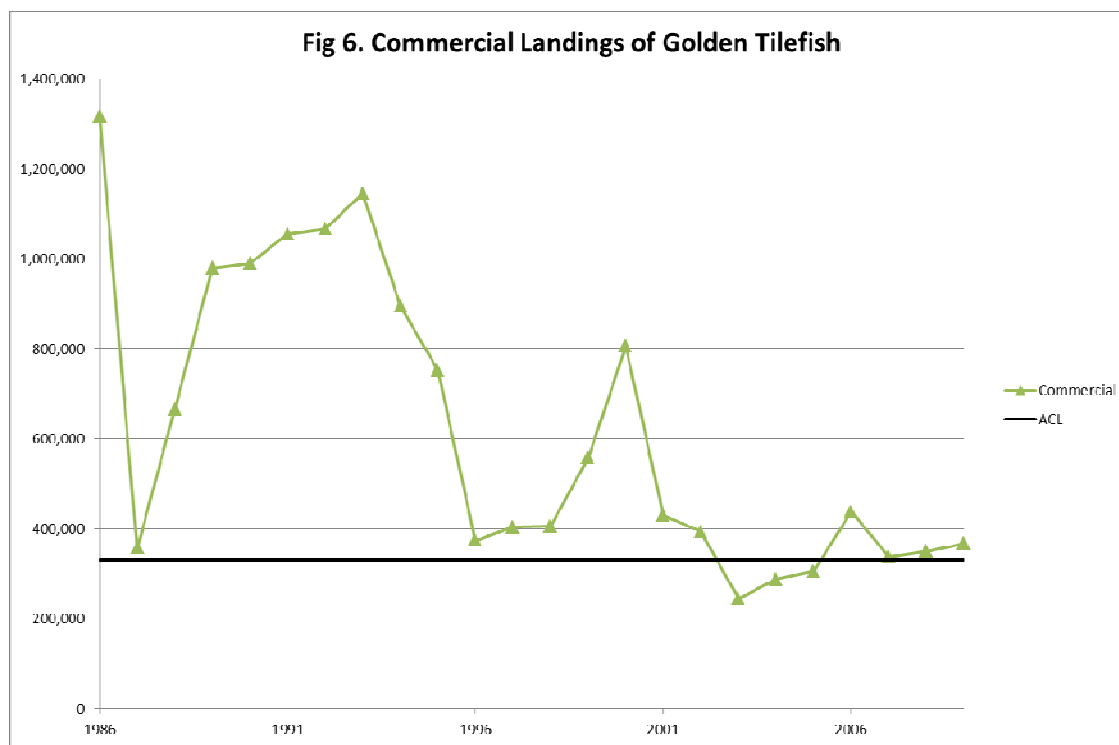
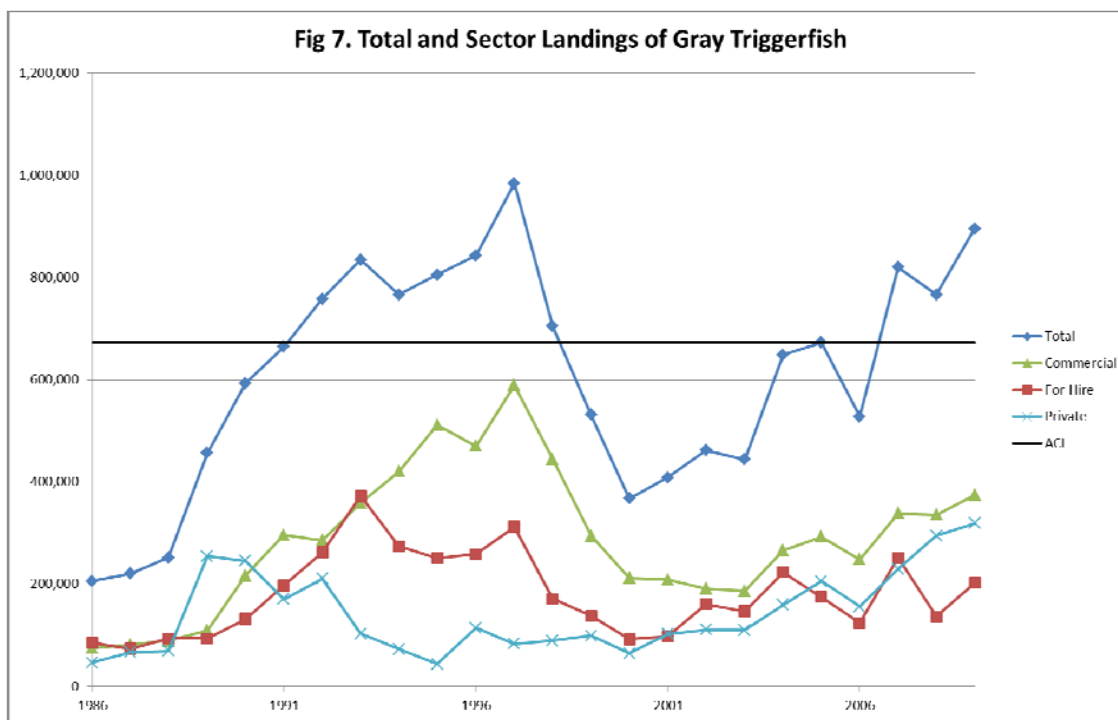


Figure 5. CPUE for black sea bass from the SE headboat survey, 1979-2010

9.4. Blue Runner

9.5. Gag Grouper

9.6. Tilefish

9.7. Gray Triggerfish

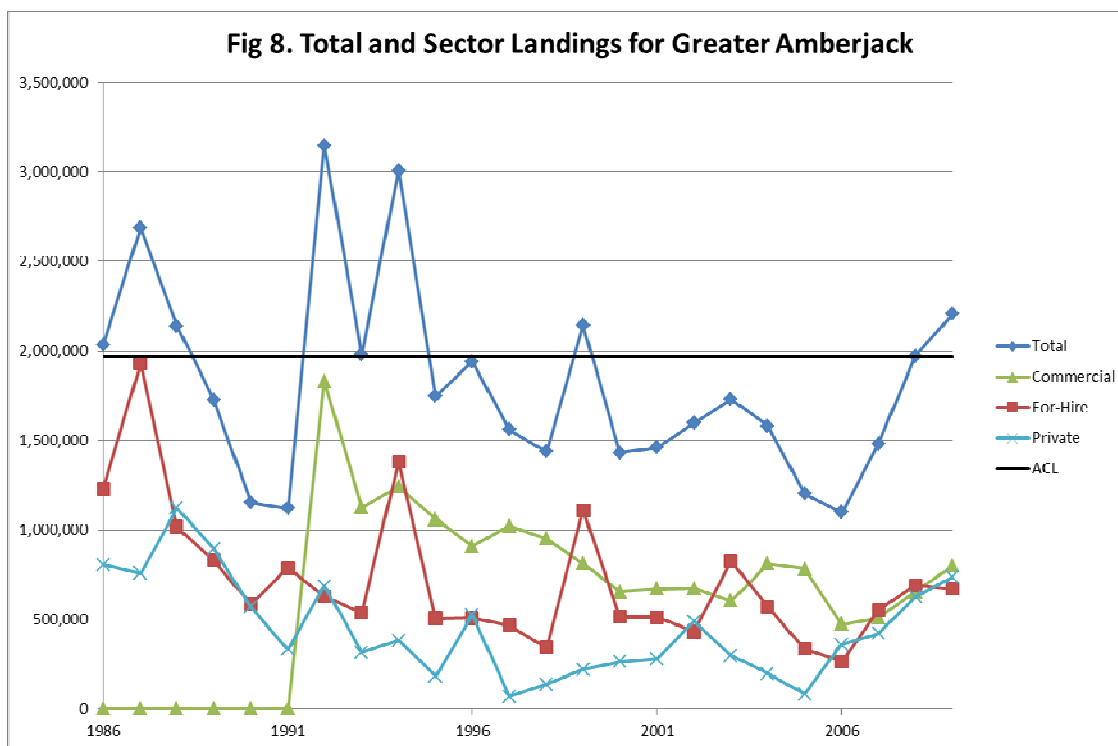
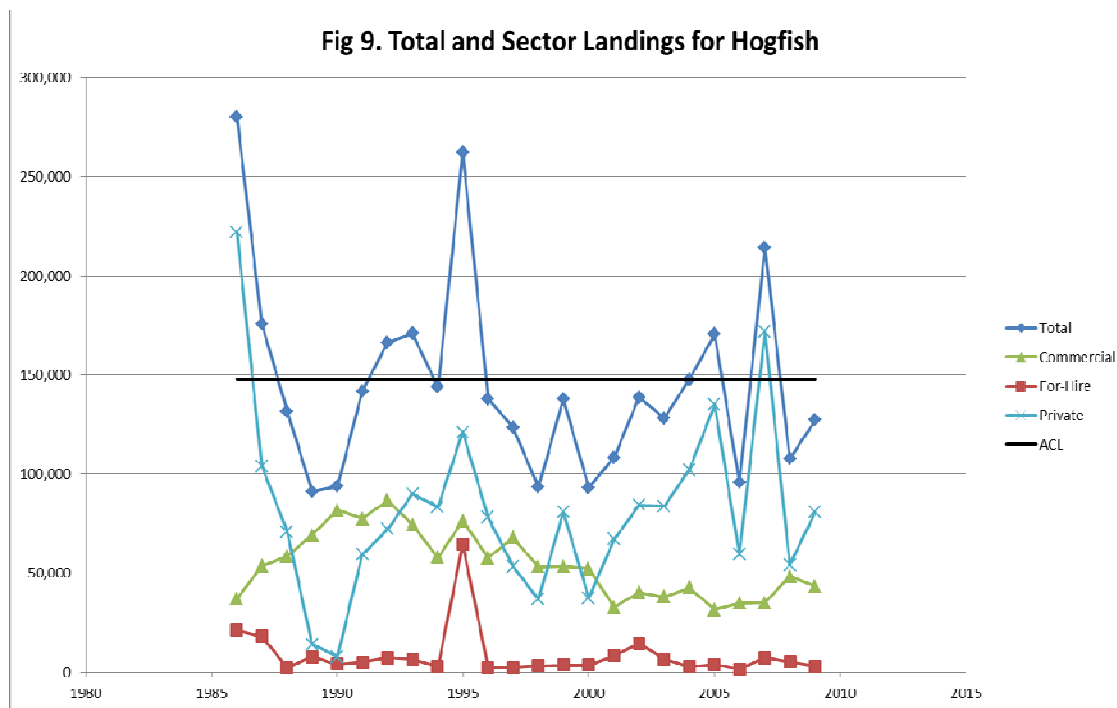
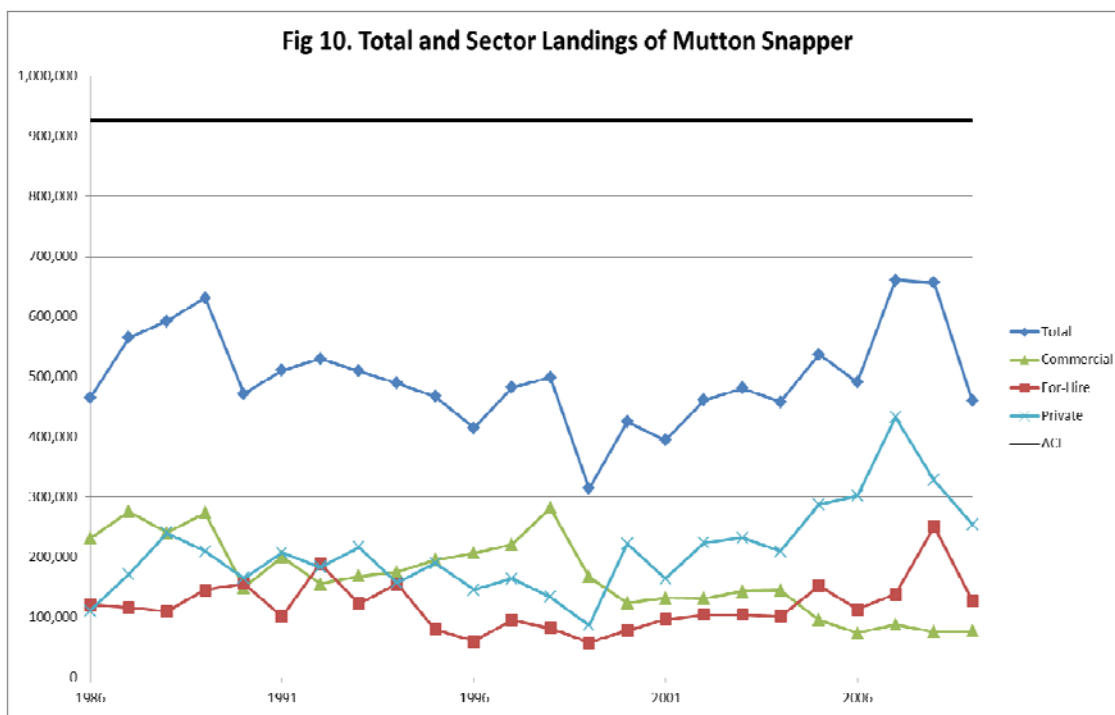
9.8. Greater Amberjack

Table 17. Greater Amberjack commercial landings tracking, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years.

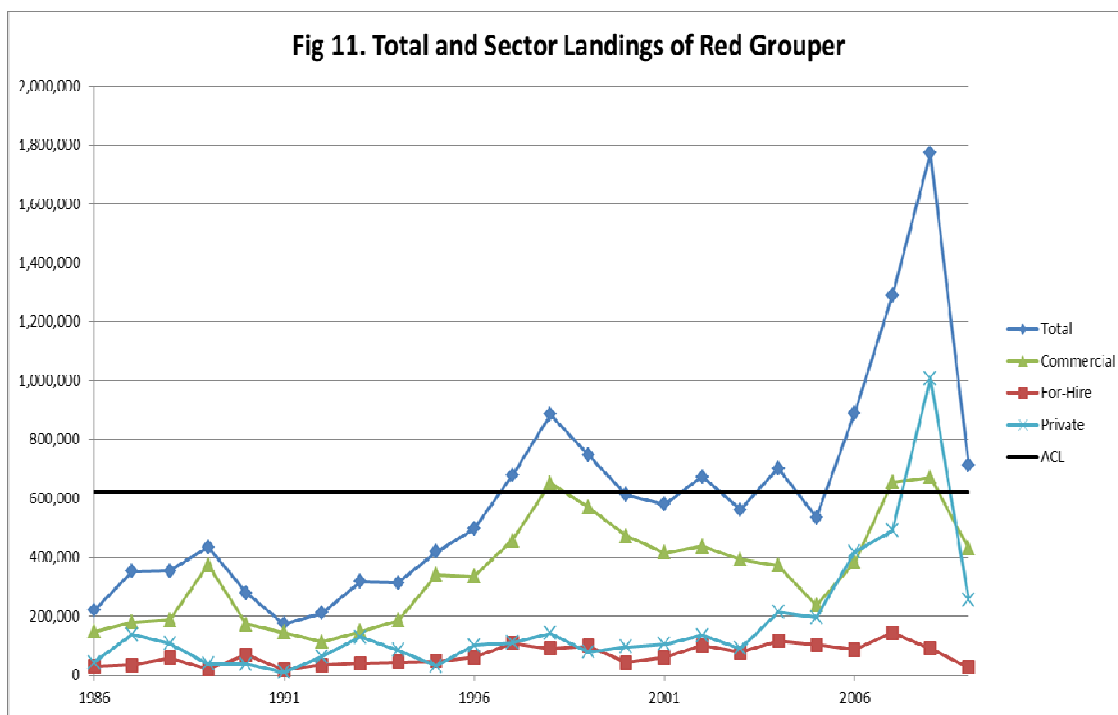
Month	Pounds Guttled Weight	
	Greater Amberjack*	
	2011-2012	2010-2011
May	187,547	176,398
June	40,203	61,149
July	21,574	42,864
August		65,576
September		52,405
October		70,362
November		38,146
December		32,489
January		42,783
February		52,223
March		73,270
April		4,965
Total	249,324	712,630
Expanded Total***	307,301	737,740
Quota	1,169,931	1,169,931
Percent	26.27%	63.06%

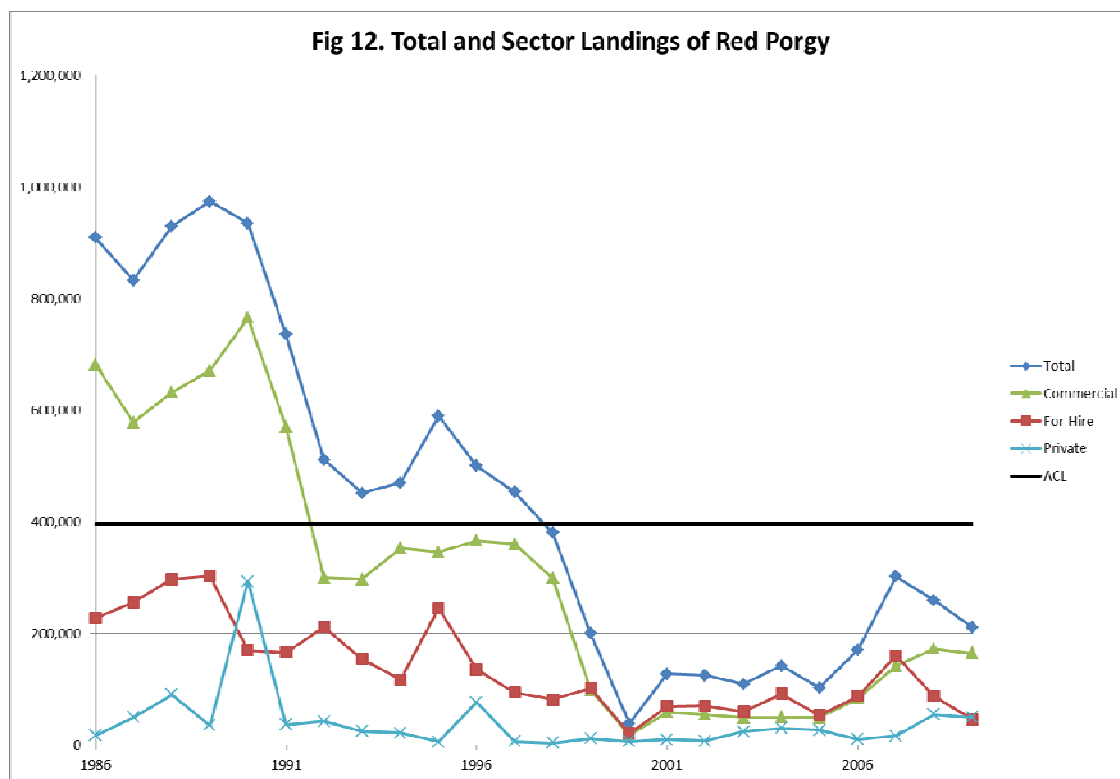
*The fishing year for Greater Amberjack is May 1 - April 30.

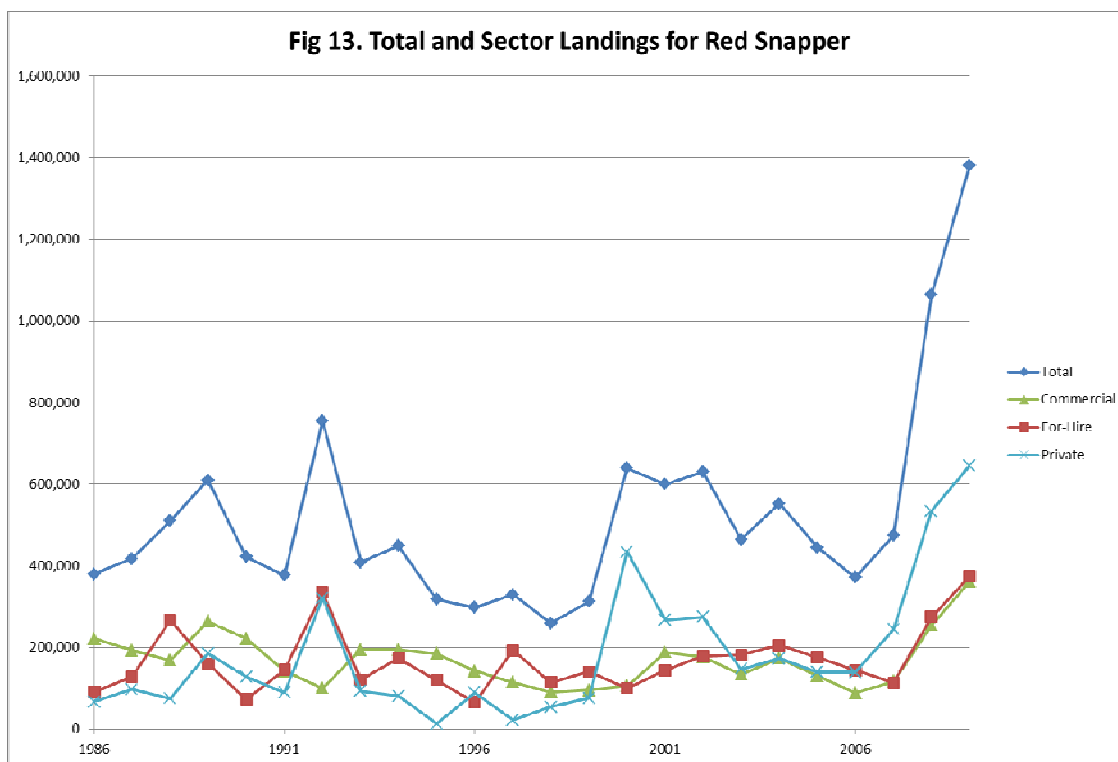
9.9. Hogfish

9.10. Mutton Snapper

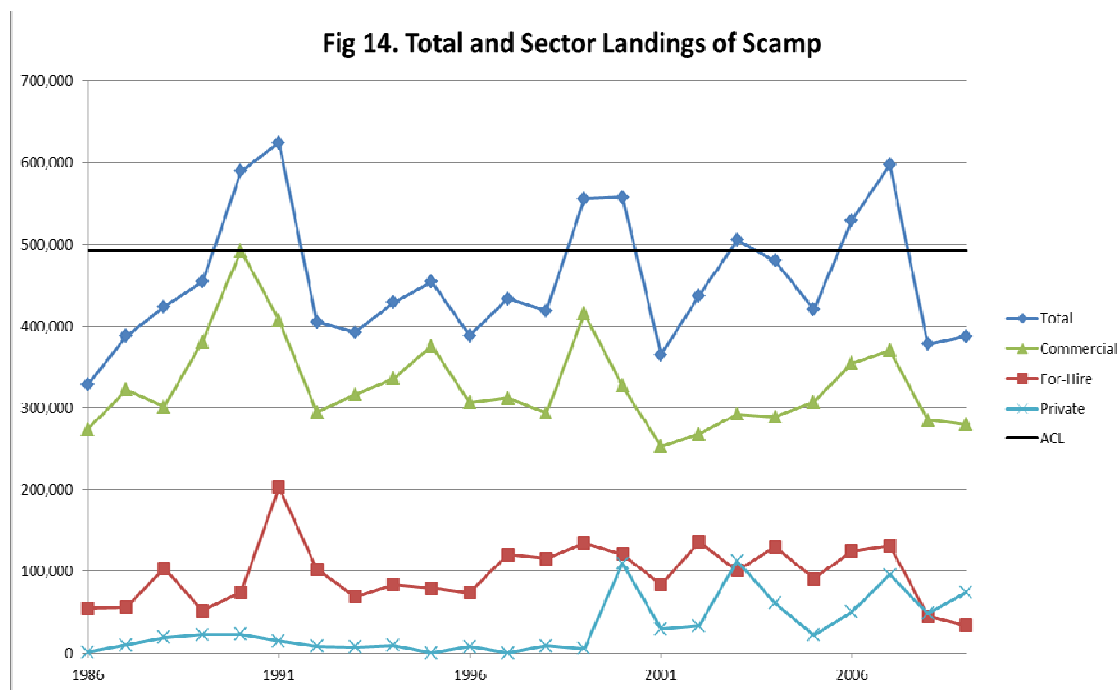
9.11. Red Grouper

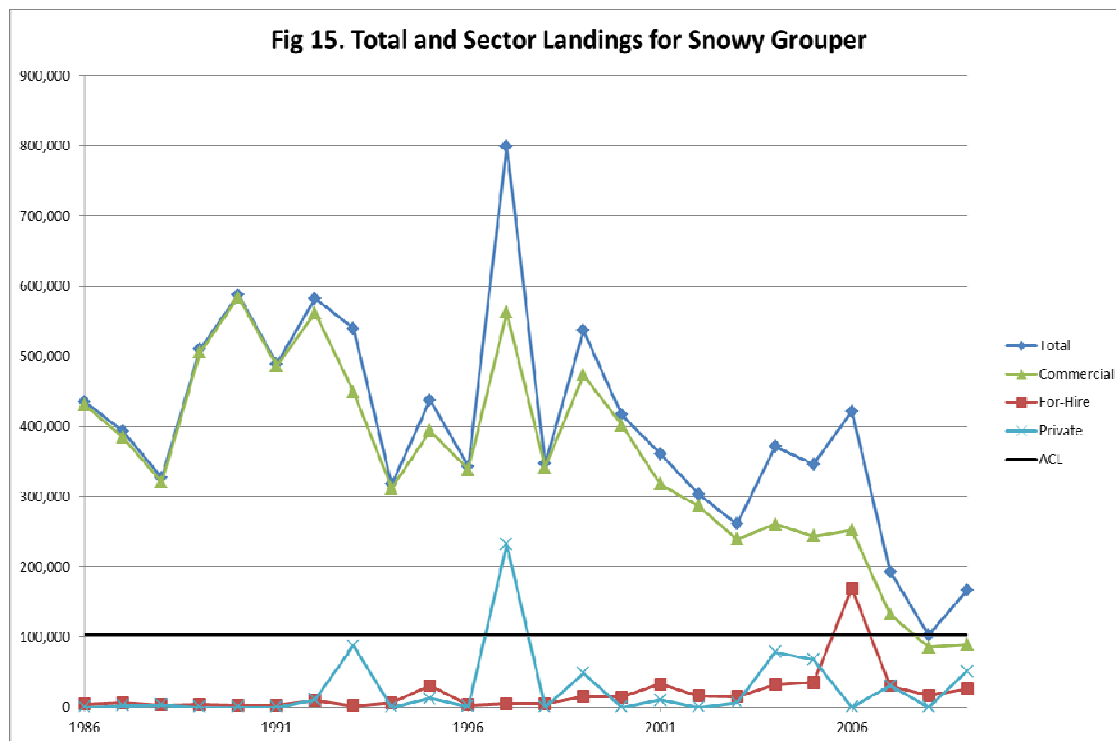


9.12. Red Porgy

9.13. Red Snapper

9.14. Scamp



9.15. Snowy Grouper

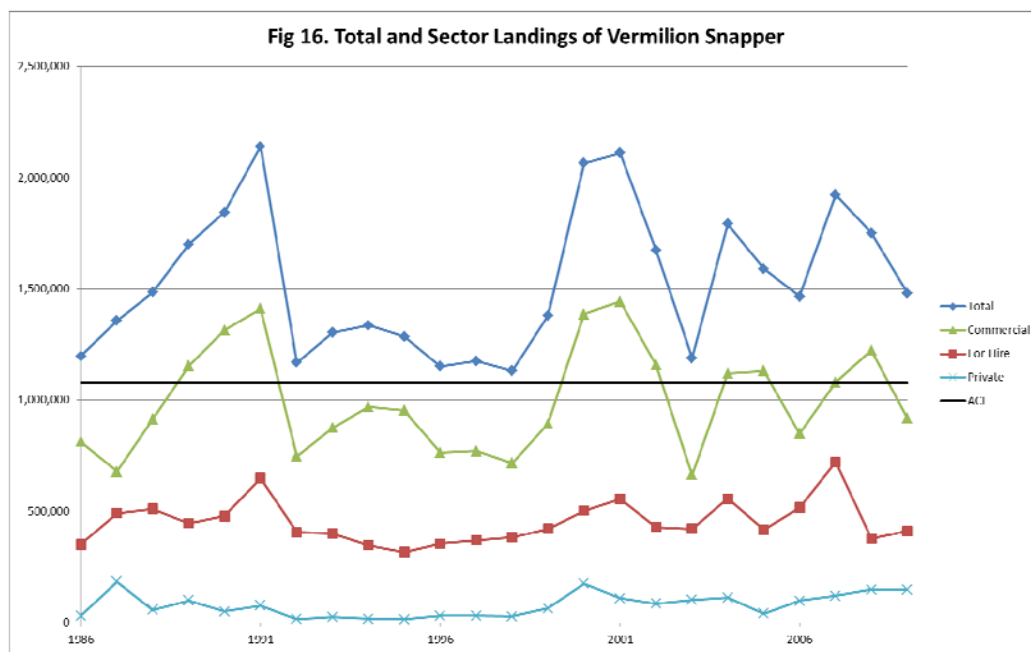
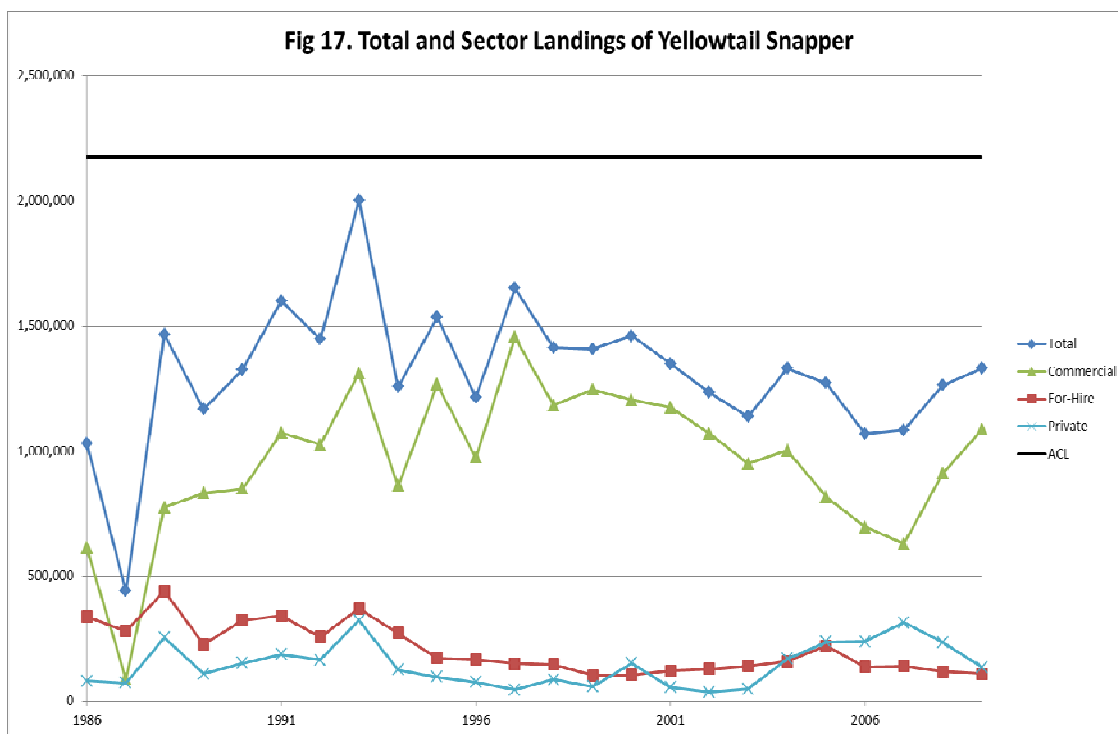
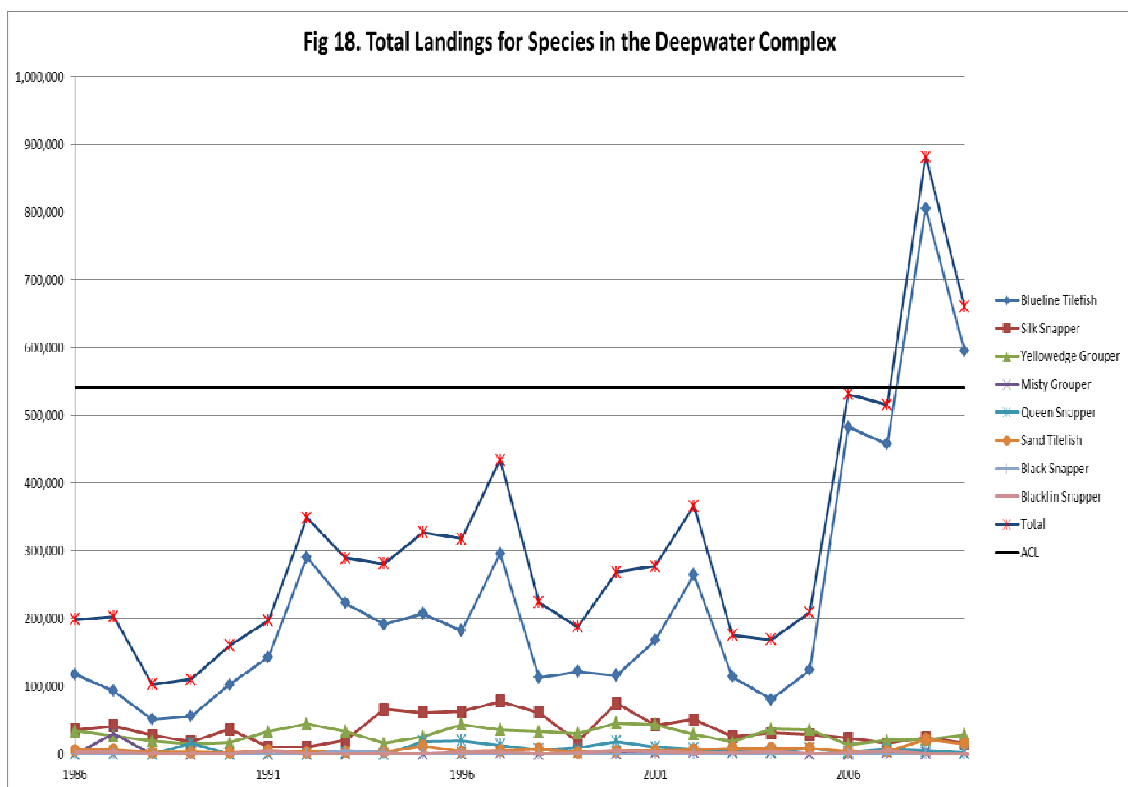
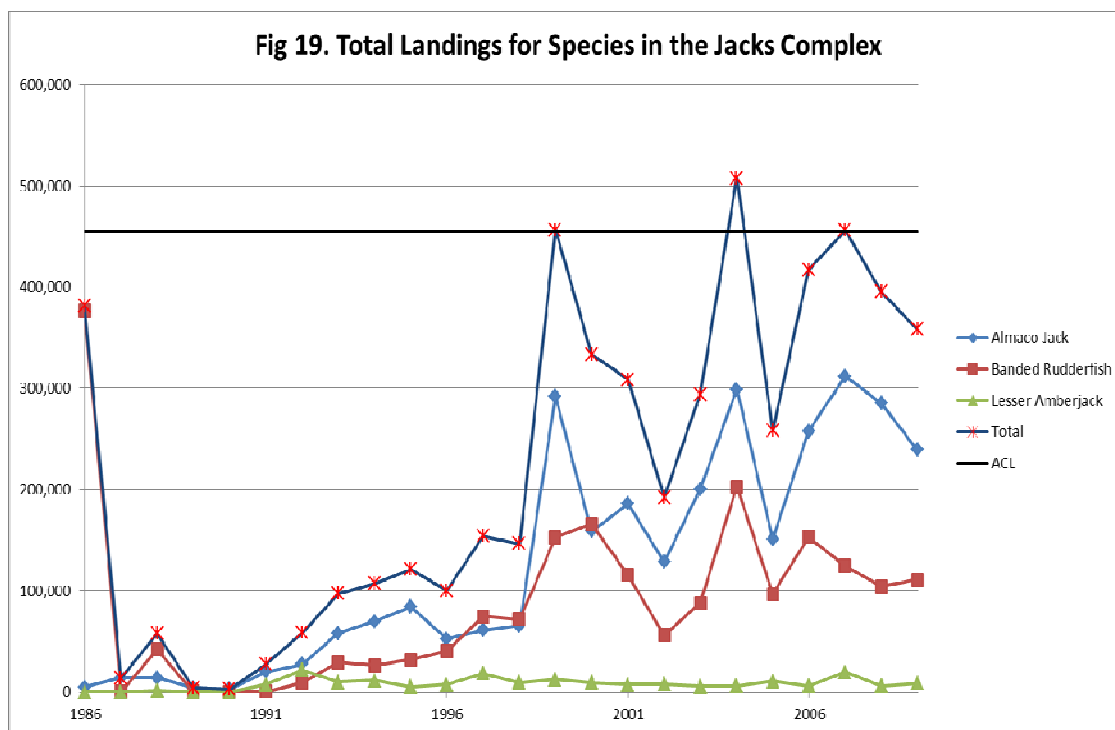
9.16. Vermilion Snapper

Table 18. Vermilion snapper commercial quota tracking, by period for 2011.

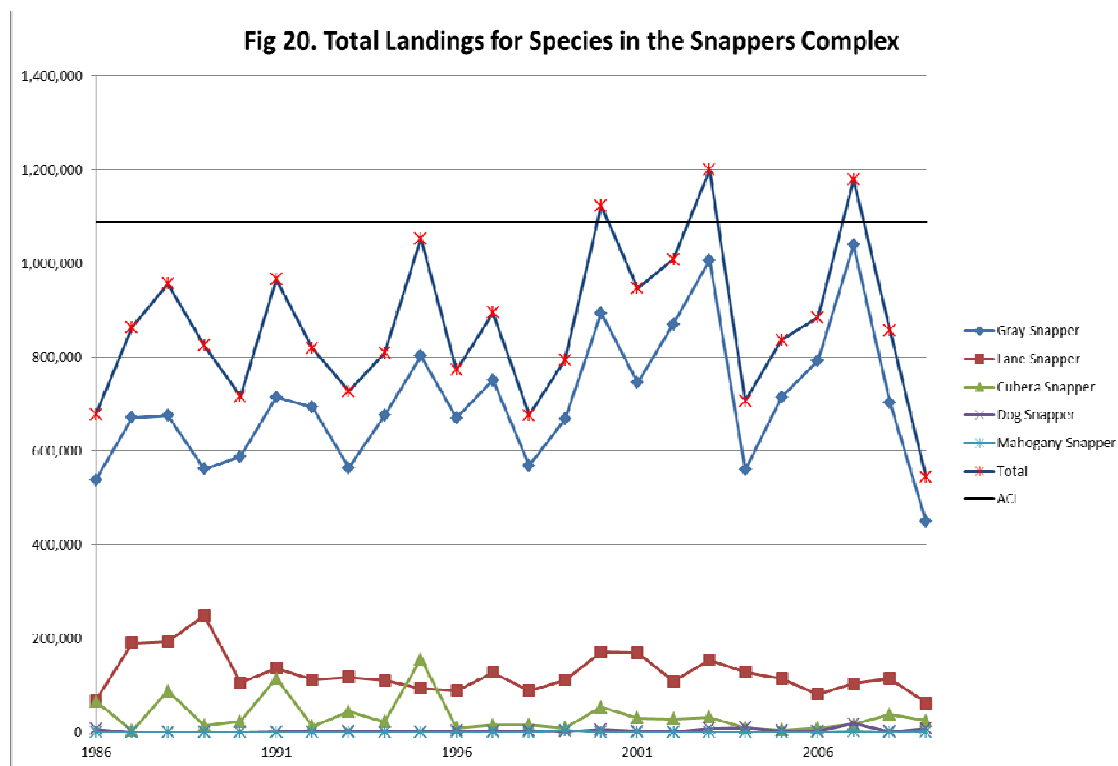
Month	Pounds Gutted Weight	
	Vermilion Snapper**	
	January - June	July - December
January	145,262	
February	103,851	
March	13,828	
April	283	
May	43,190	
June	3	
July		113,212
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total	306,417	113,212
Expanded Total**	311,522	117,863
Quota	315,523	302,523
Percent	98.73%	38.96%

9.17. Yellowtail Snapper

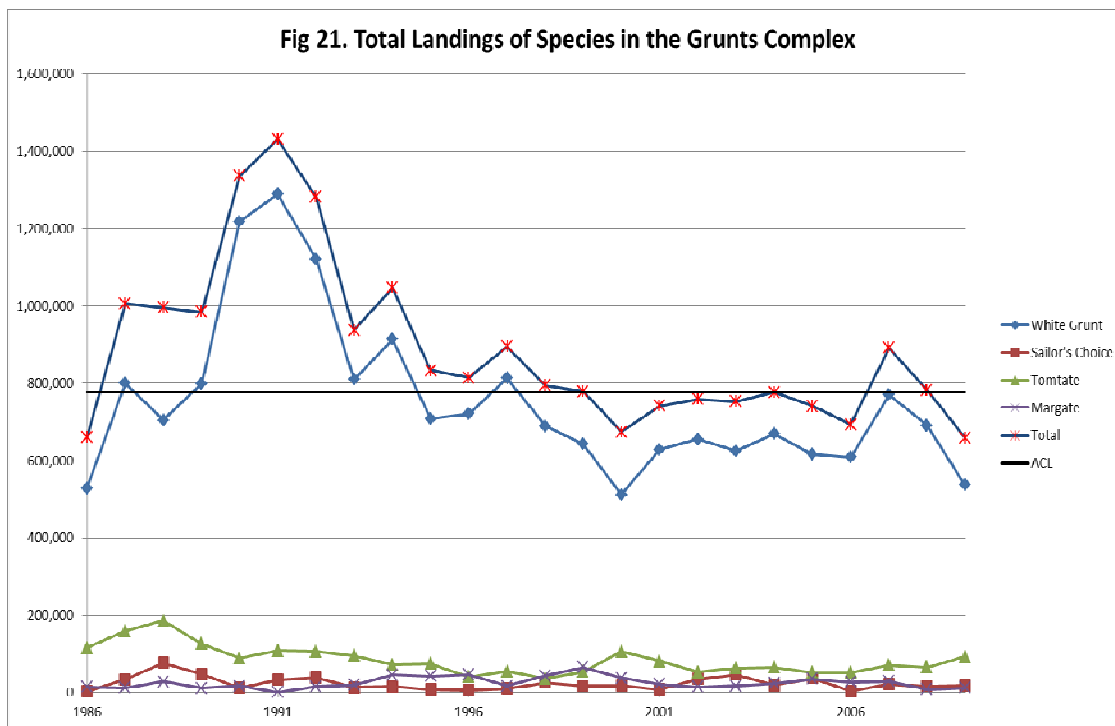
9.18. Deepwater Grouper and Tilefish Complex

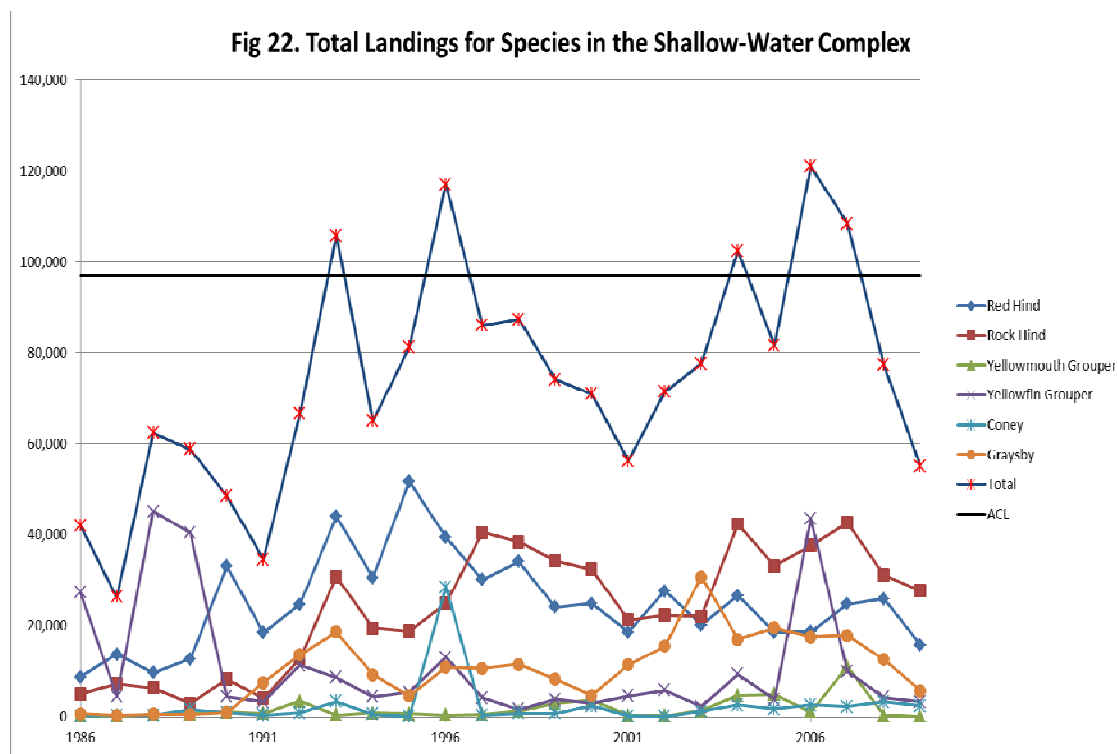
9.19. Jacks Complex

9.20. Snappers Complex

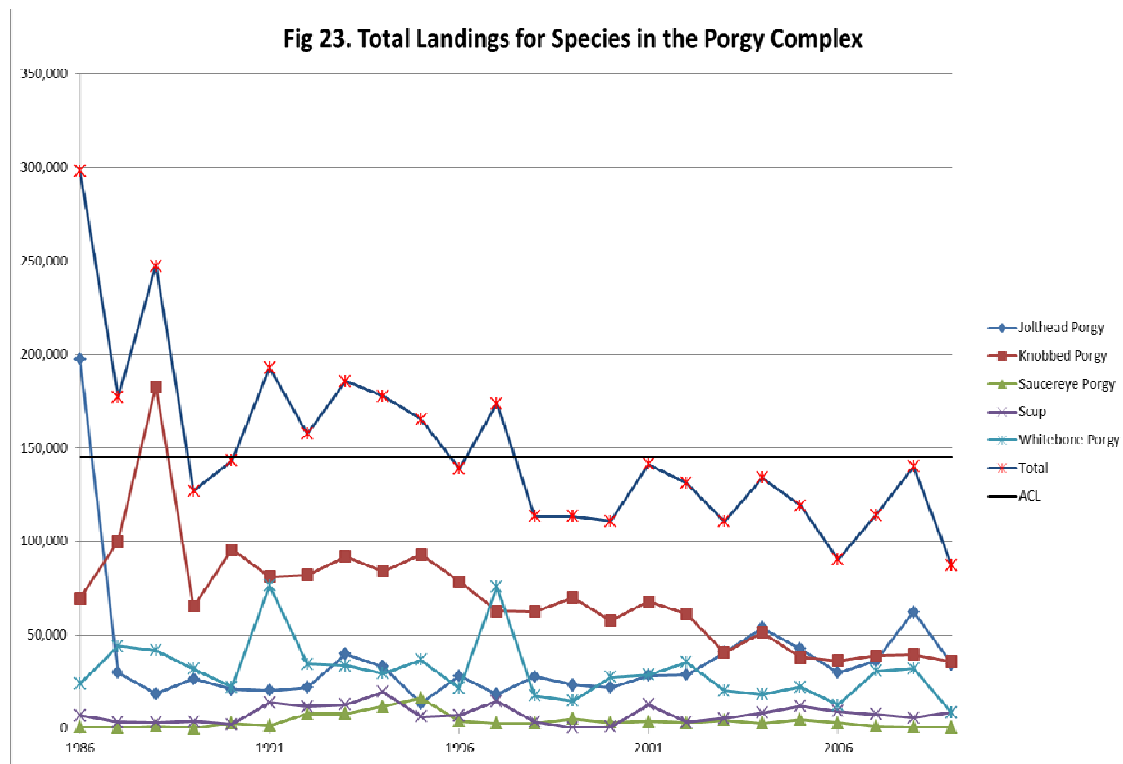


9.21. Hinds and Grunts Complex



9.22. Shallow Water Complex

9.23. Porgy Complex



9.24. Survey Trends

Add information from MARMAP survey.

10. Special Comments

Perceived Challenges
 Research/Monitoring deficiencies.
 Needs should be prioritized.

Supporting Tables

Landings information provided by Science Center. Links to landings, etc.